ARCH 1956 VOLUME 2 - NUMBER 3

CONSTRUCTION REVIEW

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WORK INJURIES IN CONSTRUCTION

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CONSTRUCTION REVIEW

CONTENTS FOR MARCH 1956

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The printing of this publication was approved by the Director of the Bureau of the Budget (December 16, 1954).

At a Glance

CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY IN FEBRUARY--Outlays for new construction declined seasonally in February 1956 to $2.7 billion, but matched the previous February record of 1955. Activity during the first 2 months of this year totaled $5.5 billion, virtually the same as last year's January-February figure. Most of the 5-percent decrease from January in total private construction was due to a continuation of the downtrend in residential building activity that began in late summer, 1955. Because of the decline in housing starts this past fall and early winter, outlays for private residential building in February dropped below the $1 billion mark (to $981 million) for the first time since April 1954. On the other hand, private nonresidential building was at a record level for February. All major types of construction contributed to the 4-percent decline in public spending over the month, but most types decreased at a rate more moderate than usual for the season.

HOUSING STARTS IN JANUARY--Nonfarm housing starts in January held at about the December level and totaled 74,000 units (73,000 private and 1,000 public). Although 15 percent below January 1955's extraordinary volume, starts in January 1956 compared favorably with January totals in most other postwar years. The seasonally adjusted annual rate of private housing started in January 1956 was 1,183,000 units--about the same as in December.

FHA-VA ACTIVITY IN JANUARY--Both FHA applications for insured loans and VA appraisal requests for new home construction in January reversed a 5-month downtrend as builders readied spring building plans. Units started with VA assistance increased slightly from December to January, but FHA-assisted starts continued to decline.

NONFARM MORTGAGE RECORDINGS IN 1955--Although nonfarm mortgage recordings declined in each of the final 4 months of the year for all major types of lending institutions, the $28.5 billion of home mortgage credit extended in 1955 surpassed the volume of any previous year and bettered the 1954 record by 24 percent. Savings and loan associations--the major source of mortgage funds--increased their loans 2[illegible] percent over the year. The next largest source--commercial banks--reported a 33-percent gain. Geographically, increases in the volume of recordings ranged from 1[illegible] percent for the Pittsburgh and Chicago areas to 35 percent for the San Francisco area.

PUBLIC CONTRACT AWARDS IN DECEMBER--Public contract awards rose sharply in December to nearly $932 million, the highest level since June, and 25 percent above the December 1954 figure. Award values rose both over the month and over the year for most types of Federal, State, and local public construction. In 1955, the public contract award total was almost $9 billion, 8 percent more than in 1954. Most of the rise was accounted for by increased awards for State and local highways, utilities, and water projects. However, substantial gains over 1954 occurred also for Federal conservation and development work, including the first awards for the St. Lawrence Seaway, and for Federal housing (primarily military) and administrative buildings.

CONTRACTS AWARDED IN THE 37 EASTERN STATES IN JANUARY--The value of contracts awarded in the 37 States east of the Rocky Mountains in January 1956 set a new record of $1.9 billion for the month. The previous high of last January was exceeded by almost 25 percent. The overall 3-percent decline from December was still far less than the usual downturn at this time of the year. Each major category--residential, nonresidential, public works, and utilities--established a new awards record for the month. For the first time in the postwar period, engineering awards (public works and utilities) showed an increase (4 percent) in January awards over December. However, one large sewer project in Pennsylvania accounted for about [illegible] percent of the total awards in this category. Nevertheless, the impact on activity

from a doubling of awards for this group compared with the same month a year ago will be important in the months ahead.

CONSTRUCTION COSTS IN JANUARY--The composite cost index of the Department of Commerce reached a new record level in January at 127.7 percent of the 1947-49 average, compared with 127.0 for the previous month. The increase of about 0.5 percent is almost the equivalent of the total change in the index for the period between August and December 1955. January marked the fourteenth consecutive month for which there was a rise in the index. The major factors in the cost picture during the month appeared to be pressure on lumber prices, scattered wage increases, and a general increase in cement prices.

WHOLESALE PRICES OF BUILDING MATERIALS IN JANUARY--The wholesale price index for building materials rose by 1 point in January to 129.3, surpassing the previous record of last October. The January rise, the largest in recent months, reflected increases for about half of the items included in the index. Advances of 2.3 percent for Douglas fir lumber, 3 to 5 percent for copper wire and steel pipe, and over 4 percent for Portland cement and gypsum products resulted in part from inadequate supplies--and accounted for more than two-thirds of the rise from December. Most of the remaining increase resulted from price rises for prepared paint, nearly all types of wood products, and sand, gravel, and building brick.

CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS OUTPUT IN DECEMBER--Despite the general seasonal declines from the previous month, construction materials output indexes for December were, with the exception of the millwork index, near or above the level of a year ago. Millwork output was almost one quarter below last December. The most significant increases over last year were in iron and steel products (35 percent) and clay construction products (18 percent). The December indexes for these products and Portland cement represent new postwar highs for that month. While the sharpest declines from November were in the output of asphalt products (35 percent) and heating and plumbing equipment (22 percent), they represent seasonal movements. The fourth quarter output index for plumbing fixtures exceeded the levels for the third quarter and the comparable period of 1954, reaching a new postwar record for quarterly output at 142.2 percent of the 1947-49 average.

CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION EMPLOYMENT IN JANUARY--The number of workers on contractors' payrolls declined seasonally in January 1956 to 2,243,000. State and area data available through December show that average employment for 1955 was somewhat higher than for 1954 in all sections of the country, with the most pronounced increases in New England and the West. Among the 24 largest metropolitan areas (those of over 500,000 population in 1950) for which information is available, Pittsburgh, Atlanta, Milwaukee, Washington, and Boston showed the largest gain over the year (16 percent or more). The greatest decline (15 percent) occurred in Albany.

HOURS AND EARNINGS IN 1955--Average weekly earnings were higher in 1955 than in 1954 for all types of contract construction. For employees of general building contractors, and for those working in heavy nonbuilding construction (other than highway and street work), the increase was due entirely to higher wage rates. All other workers--those engaged in the several special trades, as well as those in highway and street construction--had a larger amount in their weekly pay envelope both because of higher wages and a slightly longer workweek. Weekly earnings in contract construction as a whole averaged $95.94 in 1955, $1.96 above the 1954 figure. Average hourly earnings increased by 6 cents over the year to $2.60, whereas the average workweek, at 36.9 hours, was shorter in 1955 by 0.1 hours. The December 1955 hours and earnings averages were higher for almost all types of contract construction than in the previous month or a year earlier.

Work Injuries in Contract Construction, 1948-54

JOHN C. MACHISAK*

In the first years after World War II, injury-frequency rates in construction moved erratically. From 1948-50, however, the incidence of work injuries rose for most classes of construction. In 1951, injury rates began to drop and by 1954 the rates for each of the major types of construction covered in the Bureau's surveys were at their lowest levels since 1948. These are results of annual sample studies made by the U. S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics.[1]

The various types of construction studied followed the same general pattern of injury-frequency rates[2] over the 1948-54 period, except that the peak came a year later for highway and street construction (in 1951), and for special-trade contracting the movement was within a narrower range (table 1 and chart 1). The sharpest drop in frequency rates occurred in heavy construction, which in 1954, as well as in 1952, supplanted the special trades as the field of contract construction with the lowest rate.

For contract construction as a whole, it is probably significant that the 1953-54 downtrend in frequency rates was very small, since early reports for 1955 point to the possibility of a somewhat higher rate. Records available thus far give no clues as to how rates moved last year for the separate construction classifications.

In the absence of extensive details regarding the shifts in kinds of operations, the kinds of accidents experienced, and the changes in accident prevention activities during each year, it is difficult to assign specific reasons to the year-to-year movements in injury-frequency rates. Over a long period, however, it has been observed from past experience that the trend in injury-frequency rates, other influences being equal, usually is very similar to the trend in employment, and when the employment and injury-rate trends deviate, the most likely reason is some change in the intensity of accident-prevention activities. It is significant, therefore, that both construction employment and construction injury rates were rising in 1949-50, but that thereafter the injury rates declined while employment continued upward to a substantially higher level. (See chart 2.) Since the downturn in injury rates occurred in all classes of construction, it seems reasonable to infer that the improvement was due to

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[1] The Bureau of Labor Statistics regularly compiles annual work-injury frequency and severity rates for a wide range of manufacturing and nonmanufacturing activities. Before 1948, data for the construction industry were shown only for 3 main divisions of contract construction--building construction, heavy construction (other than highway and street), and highway and street work. Beginning with 1948, statistics are available separately for general building, and for a number of special trades, as well as for heavy construction and highway and street work. The all-construction rates are weighted averages (in terms of employment) of the rates determined for the several listed classes of contract construction.

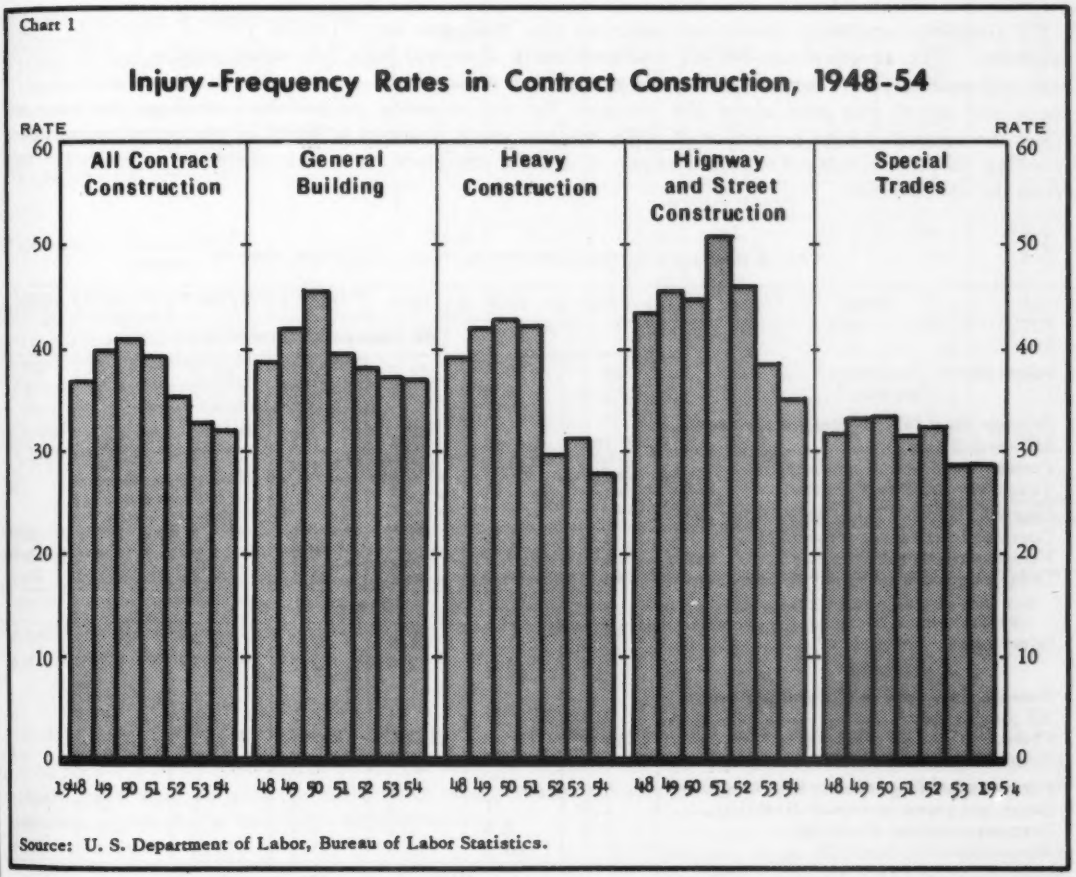
The sample surveys are conducted by mail. The coverage in construction varies somewhat from year to year but typically represents the experience of about 5,000 employers. In 1954, about 5,000 employers reported an overall average employment of 196,900 workers. Injury rates compiled by the BLS include the experience of all classes of employees--production and related workers; administrative, supervisory, sales, service, technical, professional, and office personnel. The term "injury" includes occupational disease.

For a more complete description of the survey methods, see Techniques of Preparing Major BLS Statistical Series, Ch. 5 (BLS Bull. 1168). For an interpretation of trends in earlier years, see Work Injuries in Construction, 1948-49 (BLS Bull. 1004). For analysis of accident causes in 2 trades, see Injuries and Accident Causes in Plumbing Operations (BLS Bull. 1079), and Injuries and Accident Causes in Carpentry Operations (BLS Bull. 1118).

[2] The injury-frequency rate is the average number of disabling work injuries for each million employee-hours worked. A disabling work injury is any injury occurring in the course of and arising out of employment which (a) results in death or any degree of permanent physical impairment, or (b) makes the injured worker unable to perform the duties of any regularly established job which is open and available to him, throughout the hours corresponding to his regular shift on any 1 or more days after the day of injury (including Sundays, days off, or plant shutdown).

more effective accident-prevention activities rather than to other influences. Effective accident-prevention activities emphasize engineering for safety improvements, education of the workers in safety practices, and enforcement of safety rules.

Chart 1



Source: U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

This conclusion is strengthened by the fact that for all-manufacturing, the injury-frequency rate and employment volume followed much the same pattern in the 1948-54 period. In both these measures, the upturn became apparent in 1950 and continued in 1951. Thereafter the all-manufacturing injury-frequency rate turned down whereas employment continued to rise. Proportionately, the all-construction and all-manufacturing frequency rates moved together through 1952, 1953, and 1954, implying that similar influences were operating to bring about the improvement in their respective injury records. Greater attention to safety and more effective application of accident-prevention principles appear to have been the major influences which brought about these desirable results.

Injury severity. Because the relative severity of the injuries, or the relative economic time loss resulting from identical accidents is influenced by many chance circumstances,[3] it is difficult to

[3] For example, whether a worker is killed or merely grazed by a falling scaffold; breaks a leg or only turns an ankle when tripping over material.

identify real trends in injury severity and more difficult to ascribe positive reasons for such trends as appear to be present. Both of the standard measures of severity--the injury-severity rate[4] and the average days lost or charged per case--tend to fluctuate rather widely. Trends, therefore, become apparent only over very extended periods. Thus it is questionable that the 1948-54 severity record covers sufficient experience to justify more than tentative conclusions.

Generally speaking, the record indicates that 1948 was not a typical year in respect to injury severity. The severity rate for all construction in that year was 5.0, substantially higher than in any subsequent year. Similarly, the average number of days lost or charged for all disabilities (135 days per injury) was well above the averages for the following years. Both of these measures reflect the unusually high proportion of 1948 injuries which resulted in death or permanent impairment. For the purpose of identifying indications of trends, therefore, it seems desirable to exclude 1948 from the comparisons.

TABLE 1.—INJURY RATES IN CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION, 1948-54

Item	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
	All contract construction						
Injury rates: Frequency[1]	36.7	39.9	41.0	39.3	35.3	32.9	32.1
Severity[2]	5.0	3.9	3.8	4.2	3.7	3.2	3.6
Average days lost or charged per case:[3]							
All disabilities[4]	135	100	93	104	105	107	130
Permanent-partial disabilities[5]	1,219	1,386	1,332	1,458	1,263	1,256	1,350
Temporary-total disabilities[6]	14	14	14	15	15	17	18
Percent disabling injuries resulting in--							
Death and permanent-total disability	1.2	.8	.7	.8	.9	1.0	1.2
Permanent-partial disability	4.0	3.2	2.7	3.1	2.7	2.4	3.1
Temporary-total disability	94.8	96.0	96.6	96.1	96.4	96.6	95.7
	General building						
Injury rates: Frequency[1]	39.0	41.7	45.4	39.6	38.1	37.2	37.0
Severity[2]	3.9	3.1	2.9	2.8	2.7	3.0	3.6
Average days lost or charged per case:[3]							
All disabilities[4]	101	77	64	72	71	80	96
Permanent-partial disabilities[5]	1,060	1,210	1,219	1,064	1,213	1,332	1,387
Temporary-total disabilities[6]	13	12	13	15	15	15	17
Percent disabling injuries resulting in--							
Death and permanent-total disability	1.0	.5	.4	.6	.5	.6	.7
Permanent-partial disability	2.8	2.8	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.9
Temporary-total disability	96.2	96.7	97.4	97.2	97.3	97.1	96.4
	Highway and street construction						
Injury rates: Frequency[1]	43.3	45.5	44.8	50.8	46.0	38.5	35.0
Severity[2]	5.5	4.7	4.0	8.2	5.1	4.7	5.6
Average days lost or charged per case:[3]							
All disabilities[4]	126	104	89	162	112	123	161
Permanent-partial disabilities[5]	1,247	1,200	1,644	1,754	1,199	1,534	1,713
Temporary-total disabilities[6]	13	13	11	12	15	14	16
Percent disabling injuries resulting in--							
Death and permanent-total disability	1.3	1.0	.7	.8	1.2	1.2	1.4
Permanent-partial disability	2.9	2.6	2.4	6.0	2.4	2.4	3.7
Temporary-total disability	95.8	96.4	96.9	93.2	96.4	96.4	94.9

(See footnotes at end of table.)

[4] The severity rate is the average number of days lost as a result of disabling work injuries, for ea 1,000 employee-hours worked. The computation of days lost includes standard time charges for fatalities a permanent disabilities.

TABLE 1.—INJURY RATES IN CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION, 1948-54—CONTINUED

Item	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
	Heavy construction (except highway and street)						
Injury rates: Frequency [1]	39.2	41.9	42.8	42.3	29.8	31.2	27.8
Severity [2]	5.8	5.5	6.4	4.4	4.8	4.0	5.3
Average days lost or charged per case: [3]							
All disabilities [4]	148	132	150	104	160	130	189
Permanent-partial disabilities [5]	1,183	1,445	1,236	1,046	1,106	947	1,132
Temporary-total disabilities [6]	15	18	19	15	18	20	21
Percent disabling injuries resulting in—							
Death and permanent-total disability	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.0	1.7	1.3	1.9
Permanent-partial disability	3.9	2.8	4.2	2.5	4.8	3.6	4.8
Temporary-total disability	94.7	95.9	94.5	96.5	93.5	95.1	93.3
	Special trades						
Injury rates: Frequency [1]	31.8	33.2	33.4	31.5	32.2	28.7	28.8
Severity [2]	5.5	3.2	3.1	3.5	3.2	3.0	2.8
Average days lost or charged per case: [3]							
All disabilities [4]	173	96	87	103	95	116	114
Permanent-partial disabilities [5]	(7)	1,792	1,399	1,679	1,620	1,369	1,204
Temporary-total disabilities [6]	15	14	11	17	14	18	19
Percent-disabling injuries resulting in—							
Death and permanent-total disability	(7)	.7	.7	.8	.8	1.3	1.2
Permanent-partial disability	(7)	2.8	2.4	2.3	2.1	1.6	1.9
Temporary-total disability	(7)	96.5	96.9	96.9	97.1	97.1	96.9

1 Injury-frequency rate: the average number of disabling work injuries per million employee-hours worked.
2 Severity rate: the average number of days lost or charged for each thousand employee-hours worked.
3 Includes days of disability resulting from temporary-total cases and standard time charges for fatalities and permanent disabilities, as given in "American Standard Method of Compiling Industrial Injury Rates," approved by the American Standards Association, 1945. Each death and permanent-total disability is charged with a time loss of 6,000 days.
4 Includes permanent-total, permanent-partial, and temporary-total disabilities.
5 Disabilities lesser in degree than permanent-total disabilities, and which result in some degree of physical impairment that is of permanent character.
6 Injuries which render the injured person unable to perform the duties of a regular established job that is open and available to him on any day after the day of injury, including Sundays, holidays, days off, and periods of plant shutdown.
7 Not available.

During the 6 years, 1949-54, the all-construction severity rate was relatively stable. It fluctuated from 4.2 in 1951 to 3.2 in 1953, but in 1954 at 3.6 it was not far from its 1949 level of 3.9. Certainly there were no positive indications of any real trend in the rate of economic loss resulting from injuries, which the severity rate measures.

The all-construction average days lost or charged per disabling injury, the most effective measure of injury severity, fluctuated in a relatively narrow range from 1949 through 1953, but rose sharply in 1954, except in the special trades. The significance of this upturn as an indication of trend is doubtful, and the conclusion to be drawn from the record must be that the 6-year period shows no evidence of a definite trend in injury severity in construction.

The most significant indication of any trend in injury severity lies in the average days lost or charged per temporary-total disability [5] (which accounts for most accidents and is influenced least from year to year by erratic factors). This average rose gradually but consistently throughout the period, from 14 days per case in 1949 to 18 days per case in 1954. There are several possible explanations for this. The most obvious, that construction injuries are becoming more severe, is probably the least likely to be correct. More probably, in view of the decline in the injury-frequency rate,

5 Injuries which render the injured person unable to perform the duties of a regular established job that is open and available to him on any day after the day of injury, including Sundays, holidays, days off, and periods of plant shutdown.

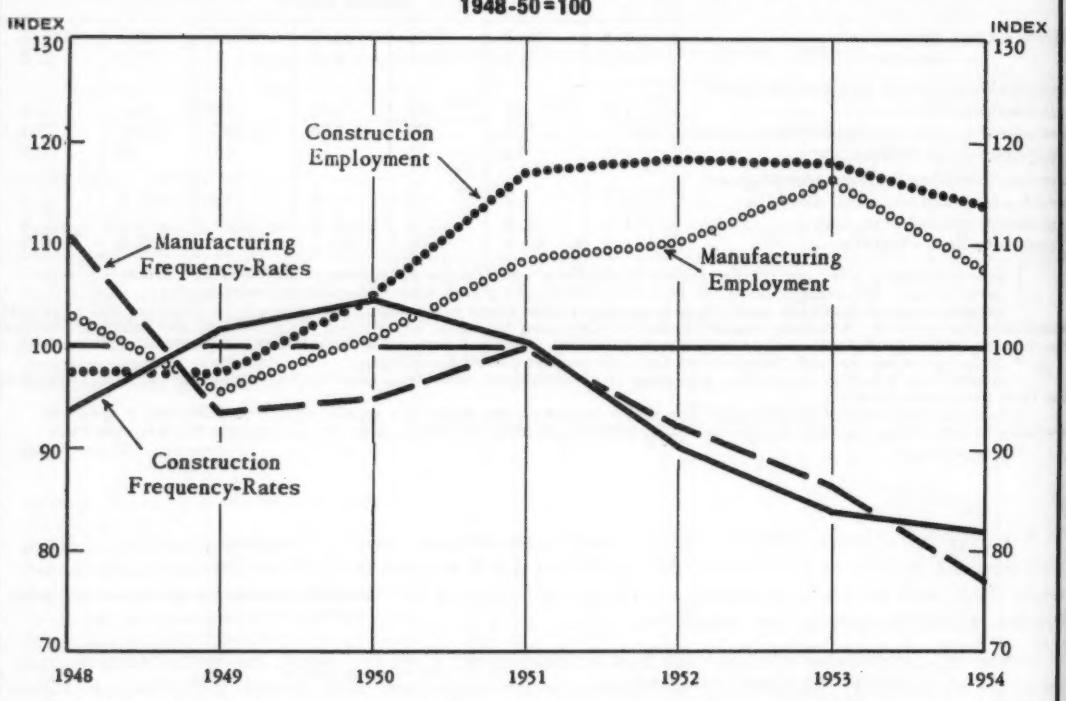
this may reflect a higher degree of success in preventing minor accidents than in eliminating the more serious ones; also, it may reflect improved medical treatment of minor injuries resulting in a reduction in the proportionate number of short-term lost-time cases entering into the records. The latter phenomenon, known as injury control as opposed to accident prevention, is frequently a factor in the reduction of injury-frequency rates.

Significantly, the trend in the average days lost or charged per temporary-total disability for all construction was quite similar to that for all manufacturing during this period.

Chart 2

Injury-Frequency Rates and Employment in Contract Construction and in Manufacturing, 1948-54

1948-50=100



Source: U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Special trades. Generally, the level of injury rates reflects the relative hazards of an industry. These are influenced by many factors, such as the method of operation, and the equipment and materials used, to mention a few. Thus, the hazards vary greatly from trade to trade. To illustrate, all of the relative hazard indicators--injury-frequency rate, injury-severity rate, and average days lost or charged per injury--for structural steel erection and ornamental iron work have been consistently higher, each year since 1948, than those for other classes of construction activity for which individual rates were compiled. An exception to this occurred in 1951, when the injury-frequency rate for highway and street construction was above that for structural steel erection and ornamental iron work.

TABLE 2.—INJURY RATES, SPECIAL TRADES CONTRACTORS, BY TRADE, 1948-54

Type of contractor	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
	Injury-frequency rates [1]						
Special trades contractors [2]	**31.8**	**33.2**	**33.4**	**31.5**	**32.2**	**28.7**	**28.8**
Plumbing, heating, and air-conditioning	30.6	30.7	28.5	26.8	31.3	25.6	26.2
Painting, paperhanging, and decorating	19.2	17.7	23.5	23.5	23.6	23.0	22.2
Electrical work	21.2	27.7	26.0	25.7	30.6	23.6	21.1
Masonry, stonework, tile setting, and plastering	32.9	34.1	37.9	36.2	31.7	30.9	29.3
Roofing and sheet metal work	40.0	32.6	43.1	43.7	38.0	35.1	37.8
Structural steel erection and ornamental iron work	52.1	52.8	58.9	48.2	46.9	44.8	47.5
	Injury-severity rates [1]						
Special trades contractors [2]	**5.5**	**3.2**	**3.1**	**3.5**	**3.2**	**3.0**	**2.8**
Plumbing, heating, and air-conditioning	3.4	1.2	1.7	1.2	.8	1.9	.9
Painting, paperhanging, and decorating	4.6	(3)	3.4	4.6	4.3	(3)	(3)
Electrical work	4.3	1.9	3.2	2.1	1.7	1.9	2.0
Masonry, stonework, tile setting, and plastering	3.3	2.5	1.1	2.2	1.3	2.0	1.3
Roofing and sheet metal work	4.1	2.5	2.4	4.2	2.1	3.9	5.5
Structural steel erection and ornamental iron work	14.6	13.6	11.0	11.8	13.8	8.9	12.1
	Average days lost or charged per case [1]						
Special trades contractors [2]	**173**	**96**	**87**	**103**	**95**	**116**	**114**
Plumbing, heating, and air-conditioning	112	38	61	44	38	75	33
Painting, paperhanging, and decorating	239	(3)	144	194	183	(3)	(3)
Electrical work	204	66	125	81	55	80	93
Masonry, stonework, tile setting, and plastering	100	74	30	61	42	65	46
Roofing and sheet metal work	102	77	56	96	55	109	145
Structural steel erection and ornamental iron work	280	279	186	245	295	267	255

[1] See table 1 for definitions.
[2] Includes data for trades not shown separately; and for contractors engaged in repair and maintenance work, on which injury rates tend to be lower than on other types of construction.
[3] Data insufficient to warrant presentation of rate.

ERRATUM: In the article Estimating Demand for Portland Cement (January 1956 Construction Review), the equation on page 7 should have read billions of dollars, not millions, for the new construction items (X_2, X_3, and X_4).

STATISTICAL SERIES

NOTE: ALL THE STATISTICAL SERIES IN CONSTRUCTION REVIEW ARE SUBJECT TO REVISION FOR THE LATEST PERIOD SHOWN.

Part I--Construction Put in Place

Table 1.--New Construction Put in Place: Current Month, by Type of Construction

Type of construction	Value (*in millions of dollars*)					Percent change		
	1956		1955	First 2 months		Feb. 1956 from--		First 2 months, 1955-56
	Feb.	Jan.	Feb.	1956	1955	Jan. 1956	Feb. 1955	
TOTAL NEW CONSTRUCTION	2,705	2,842	2,698	5,547	5,513	- 5	(1)	+ 1
PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION	2,019	2,124	2,002	4,143	4,075	- 5	+ 1	+ 2
Residential building (nonfarm)	981	1,079	1,049	2,060	2,171	- 9	- 6	- 5
New dwelling units	885	980	960	1,865	1,990	-10	- 8	- 6
Additions and alterations	66	69	68	135	139	- 4	- 3	- 3
Nonhousekeeping	30	30	21	60	42	0	+43	+43
Nonresidential building	650	651	548	1,301	1,091	(1)	+19	+19
Industrial	229	225	187	454	373	+ 2	+22	+22
Commercial	250	250	198	500	387	0	+26	+29
Office buildings and warehouses	100	105	83	205	167	- 5	+20	+23
Stores, restaurants, and garages	150	145	115	295	220	+ 3	+30	+34
Other nonresidential building	171	176	163	347	331	- 3	+ 5	+ 5
Religious	55	58	53	113	108	- 5	+ 4	+ 5
Educational	39	41	39	80	81	- 5	0	- 1
Hospital and institutional	25	26	28	51	56	- 4	-11	- 9
Social and recreational	18	18	17	36	35	0	+ 6	+ 3
Miscellaneous	34	33	26	67	51	+ 3	+31	+31
Farm construction	86	83	95	169	187	+ 4	- 9	-10
Public utility	295	303	297	598	599	- 3	- 1	(1)
Railroad	25	27	19	52	39	- 7	+32	+33
Telephone and telegraph	55	55	50	110	100	0	+10	+10
Other public utility	215	221	228	436	460	- 3	- 6	- 5
All other private	7	8	13	15	27	-13	-46	-44
PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION	686	718	696	1,404	1,438	- 4	- 1	- 2
Residential building	19	20	21	39	43	- 5	-10	- 9
Nonresidential building	279	290	320	569	662	- 4	-13	-14
Industrial	28	30	76	58	166	- 7	-63	-65
Educational	187	190	178	377	360	- 2	+ 5	+ 5
Hospital and institutional	19	23	22	42	47	-17	-14	-11
Other nonresidential building	45	47	44	92	89	- 4	+ 2	+ 3
Military facilities	81	86	77	167	155	- 6	+ 5	+ 8
Highway	165	170	150	335	305	- 3	+10	+10
Sewer and water	75	79	70	154	146	- 5	+ 7	+ 5
Public service enterprises	23	25	11	48	24	- 8	+109	+100
Conservation and development	34	38	38	72	83	-11	-11	-13
All other public	10	10	9	20	20	0	+11	0

Source: Departments of Commerce and Labor.

[1] Change of less than one-half of 1 percent.

Table 2.--New Construction Put in Place: Recent Monthly Trend, by Type of Construction

(Value, in millions of dollars)

Type of construction	1955											1956	
	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.
TOTAL NEW CONSTRUCTION	**2,698**	**2,989**	**3,283**	**3,606**	**3,881**	**4,044**	**4,101**	**4,086**	**3,953**	**3,617**	**3,177**	**2,842**	**2,705**
PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION	**2,002**	**2,193**	**2,367**	**2,547**	**2,730**	**2,829**	**2,858**	**2,844**	**2,765**	**2,633**	**2,410**	**2,124**	**2,019**
Residential building (nonfarm)	1,049	1,185	1,319	1,430	1,544	1,590	1,587	1,561	1,508	1,422	1,283	1,079	981
New dwelling units	960	1,085	1,190	1,270	1,380	1,430	1,435	1,410	1,360	1,280	1,160	980	885
Additions and alterations	68	79	106	133	133	127	119	119	116	110	92	69	66
Nonhousekeeping	21	21	23	27	31	33	33	32	32	32	31	30	30
Nonresidential building	548	558	563	592	633	668	686	714	719	717	683	651	650
Industrial	187	186	184	184	190	199	205	213	218	225	226	225	229
Commercial	198	207	214	236	259	277	286	303	305	296	269	250	250
Office buildings and warehouses	83	82	85	89	90	95	99	102	105	110	107	105	100
Stores, restaurants, and garages	115	125	129	147	169	182	187	201	200	186	162	145	150
Other nonresidential bldg.	163	165	165	172	184	192	195	198	196	196	188	176	171
Religious	53	53	54	58	62	66	68	69	68	67	63	58	55
Educational	39	41	40	36	39	41	43	45	45	45	43	41	39
Hospital & institutional	28	28	28	30	30	31	31	31	30	29	27	26	25
Social and recreational	17	16	17	19	22	23	23	22	21	21	20	18	18
Miscellaneous	26	27	26	29	31	31	30	31	32	34	35	33	34
Farm construction	95	103	114	131	141	148	150	137	112	94	83	83	86
Public utility	297	333	357	378	396	407	421	420	415	388	351	303	295
Railroad	19	25	28	29	30	31	33	34	32	30	29	27	25
Telephone and telegraph	50	55	55	60	60	65	65	65	60	60	55	55	55
Other public utility	228	253	274	289	306	311	323	321	323	298	267	221	215
All other private	13	14	14	16	16	16	14	12	11	11	10	8	7
PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION	**696**	**796**	**916**	**1,059**	**1,151**	**1,215**	**1,243**	**1,242**	**1,188**	**985**	**767**	**718**	**686**
Residential building	21	23	22	22	23	21	22	22	22	21	20	20	19
Nonresidential building	320	349	361	374	382	387	380	372	353	318	287	290	279
Industrial	76	77	71	71	68	64	51	43	43	35	31	30	28
Educational	178	190	202	211	217	220	223	221	212	200	186	190	187
Hospital and institutional	22	27	28	28	30	32	32	32	28	25	20	23	19
Other nonresidential bldg.	44	55	60	64	67	71	74	76	70	58	50	47	45
Military facilities	77	82	98	106	120	122	129	133	134	115	106	86	81
Highway	150	190	270	375	430	480	500	510	485	355	200	170	165
Sewer and water	70	81	88	96	99	104	105	100	97	89	80	79	75
Public service enterprises	11	14	16	20	27	31	36	35	30	25	21	25	23
Conservation and development	38	45	48	53	56	56	56	54	52	49	43	38	34
All other public	9	12	13	13	14	14	15	16	15	13	10	10	10

Source: Departments of Commerce and Labor.

COMPOSITION OF REGIONS AND GEOGRAPHIC DIVISIONS

NORTHEAST

1. *New England*
   Connecticut
   Maine
   Massachusetts
   New Hampshire
   Rhode Island
   Vermont
2. *Middle Atlantic*
   New Jersey
   New York
   Pennsylvania

NORTH CENTRAL

3. *E. N. Central*
   Illinois
   Indiana
   Michigan
   Ohio
   Wisconsin
4. *W. N. Central*
   Iowa
   Kansas
   Minnesota
   Missouri
   Nebraska
   North Dakota
   South Dakota

SOUTH

5. *S. Atlantic*
   Delaware
   Dist. of Col.
   Florida
   Georgia
   Maryland
   N. Carolina
   S. Carolina
   Virginia
   W. Virginia
6. *E. S. Central*
   Alabama
   Kentucky
   Mississippi
   Tennessee
7. *W. S. Central*
   Arkansas
   Louisiana
   Oklahoma
   Texas

WEST

8. *Mountain*
   Arizona
   Colorado
   Idaho
   Montana
   Nevada
   New Mexico
   Utah
   Wyoming
9. *Pacific*
   California
   Oregon
   Washington

NONFARM POPULATION DISTRIBUTION IN 1950

NORTHEAST—29.5 percent. *NORTH CENTRAL*—29.0 percent. *SOUTH*—27.7 percent. *WEST*—13.8 percent.

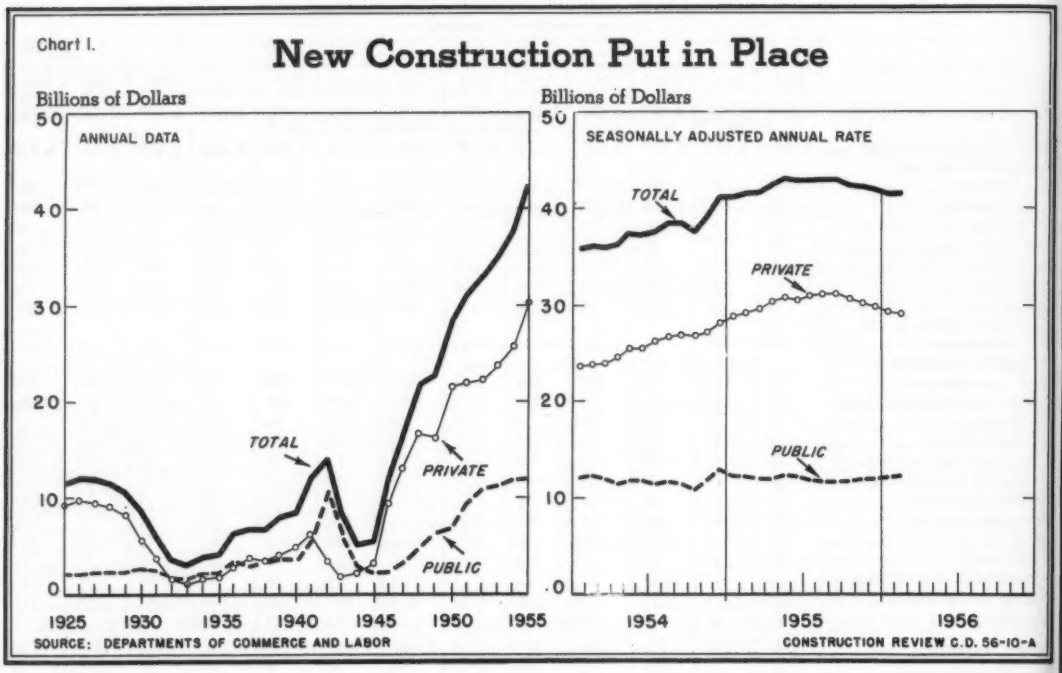


Table 3.--New Construction Put in Place: Seasonally Adjusted Annual Rate, by Type of Construction

(Value, in millions of dollars)

Type of construction	Seasonally adjusted annual rate							Annual total	
	1955					1956			
	Feb.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	1954	1955
TOTAL NEW CONSTRUCTION	41,436	42,876	42,312	42,216	41,868	41,460	41,532	37,577	42,250
PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION	29,256	31,188	30,612	30,204	29,832	29,256	29,232	25,768	30,250
Residential building (nonfarm)	16,176	17,064	16,488	16,140	15,912	15,420	15,096	13,496	16,600
Nonresidential building	6,984	8,148	8,196	8,160	8,028	7,968	8,292	6,250	7,624
Industrial	2,196	2,508	2,544	2,616	2,668	2,616	2,700	2,030	2,403
Commercial	2,664	3,480	3,492	3,264	3,132	3,180	3,360	2,192	3,039
Office bldgs. & warehouses	1,008	1,188	1,212	1,224	1,188	1,200	1,212	958	1,131
Stores, restaurants, and garages	1,656	2,292	2,280	2,040	1,944	1,980	2,148	1,254	1,908
Other nonresidential building	2,124	2,160	2,160	2,280	2,232	2,172	2,232	2,008	2,182
Farm construction	1,464	1,368	1,344	1,332	1,320	1,320	1,320	1,560	1,400
Public utility	4,452	4,464	4,452	4,440	4,428	4,428	4,428	4,341	4,465
All other private	180	144	132	132	144	120	96	121	161
PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION	12,180	11,688	11,700	12,012	12,036	12,204	12,300	11,809	12,000
Residential building	288	240	252	252	240	264	252	336	261
Nonresidential building	4,560	4,056	3,948	4,008	3,864	3,960	3,984	4,641	4,225
Military facilities	1,212	1,344	1,404	1,332	1,416	1,224	1,284	1,030	1,300
Highway	4,068	3,924	3,984	4,284	4,404	4,536	4,500	3,750	4,100
Sewer and water	1,092	1,068	1,068	1,104	1,068	1,128	1,164	982	1,085
Public service enterprises	204	360	348	348	348	396	420	218	279
Conservation and development	612	528	516	516	540	552	540	704	595
All other public	144	168	180	168	156	144	156	148	155

Source: Departments of Commerce and Labor.

Table 4.--New Construction Put in Place: Value in 1947-49 Prices, by Type of Construction

(Millions of dollars)

Type of construction	1956	1955			Year					
	Jan.	Dec.	Nov.	Jan.	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
TOTAL NEW CONSTRUCTION	**2,207**	**2,483**	**2,852**	**2,277**	**26,608**	**26,988**	**27,662**	**28,931**	**30,912**	**33,794**
PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION	**1,642**	**1,869**	**2,045**	**1,669**	**19,885**	**18,677**	**18,428**	**19,433**	**20,934**	**23,855**
Residential building (nonfarm)	854	1,018	1,131	923	11,634	9,457	9,311	9,840	11,214	13,382
Nonresidential building	502	529	555	437	3,566	4,494	4,211	4,655	5,073	6,004
Industrial	178	180	179	154	1,004	1,790	1,909	1,807	1,690	1,949
Office buildings and warehouses	81	83	86	68	396	500	461	640	789	895
Stores, restaurants, and garages	110	123	141	83	828	733	525	857	998	1,473
Other nonresidential bldgs.	133	143	149	132	1,338	1,471	1,316	1,351	1,596	1,687
Farm construction	68	69	78	78	1,583	1,616	1,643	1,484	1,341	1,175
Public utility	212	246	273	221	3,001	3,056	3,194	3,362	3,216	3,181
All other private	6	7	8	10	101	54	69	92	90	113
PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION	**565**	**614**	**807**	**608**	**6,723**	**8,311**	**9,234**	**9,498**	**9,978**	**9,939**
Residential building	16	16	17	18	321	512	550	459	281	213
Nonresidential building	221	219	243	273	2,237	3,050	3,465	3,531	3,743	3,296
Industrial	24	25	28	75	212	821	1,384	1,434	1,253	586
Educational	144	141	152	143	1,061	1,337	1,375	1,397	1,696	1,888
Hospital and institutional	17	15	19	20	467	466	401	297	289	255
Other nonresidential building	36	38	44	35	497	426	305	403	505	567
Military facilities	69	86	93	65	171	788	1,195	1,105	872	1,070
Highway	155	186	332	147	2,367	2,349	2,489	2,851	3,573	3,867
Sewer and water	54	56	62	55	590	655	639	681	724	770
Public service enterprises	17	14	17	9	164	168	148	146	156	191
Conservation and development	26	30	34	33	786	721	694	639	520	422
All other public	7	7	9	8	87	68	54	86	109	110

Source: Departments of Commerce and Labor.

Chart 2

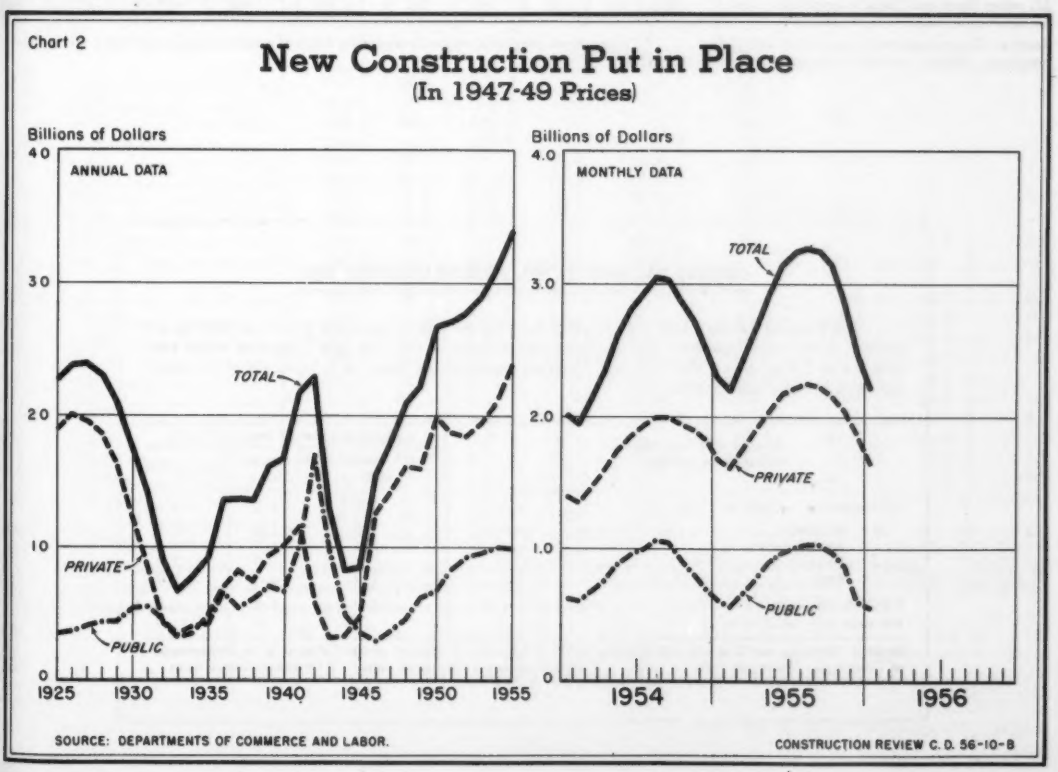


Table 5.--New Public Construction Put in Place, by Source of Funds, Ownership, and Type of Construction

Source of funds, ownership, and type of construction	Value *(in millions of dollars)*								Percent change		
	1955				1956		First 2 months		Feb. 1956 from--		First 2 months, 1955-56
	Feb.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	1955	1956	Feb. 1955	Jan. 1956	
TOTAL PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION	**696**	**1,188**	**985**	**767**	**718**	**686**	**1,438**	**1,404**	**- 1**	**- 4**	**- 2**
Federal funds	228	335	279	225	206	189	482	395	-17	- 8	-18
Direct Federal	195	250	212	189	163	150	417	313	-23	- 8	-25
Federal grants-in-aid [1]	33	85	67	36	43	39	65	82	+18	- 9	+26
State and local funds	468	853	706	542	512	497	956	1,009	+ 6	- 3	+ 6
FEDERALLY OWNED	**195**	**250**	**212**	**189**	**163**	**150**	**417**	**313**	**-23**	**- 8**	**-25**
Residential building	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nonresidential building	78	57	42	36	35	32	173	67	-59	- 9	-61
Industrial	76	43	35	31	30	28	166	58	-63	- 7	-65
Educational	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hospital	1	2	2	2	2	1	3	3	0	-50	0
Other nonresidential	1	10	5	3	3	3	4	6	+200	0	+50
Military facilities	77	134	115	106	86	81	155	167	+ 5	- 6	+ 8
Highway	2	6	5	4	4	3	5	7	+50	-25	+40
Conservation and development	38	52	49	43	38	34	83	72	-11	-11	-13
All other federally owned	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	-100
STATE AND LOCALLY OWNED	**501**	**938**	**773**	**578**	**555**	**536**	**1,021**	**1,091**	**+ 7**	**- 3**	**+ 7**
Residential building	21	22	21	20	20	19	43	39	-10	- 5	- 9
Nonresidential building	242	296	276	251	255	247	489	502	+ 2	- 3	+ 3
Educational	178	210	200	186	190	187	360	377	+ 5	- 2	+ 5
Hospital	21	26	23	18	21	18	44	39	-14	-14	-11
Other nonresidential	43	60	53	47	44	42	85	86	- 2	- 5	+ 1
Highway	148	479	350	196	166	162	300	328	+ 9	- 2	+ 9
Sewer and water	70	97	89	80	79	75	146	154	+ 7	- 5	+ 5
All other State and locally owned	20	44	37	31	35	33	43	68	+65	- 6	+58

Source: Departments of Commerce and Labor. [1] Construction programs currently receiving Federal grants-in-aid cover highways, schools, hospitals, airports, and miscellaneous community facilities.

HOUSING VACANCY RATES, FOURTH QUARTER 1955

The housing vacancy rate rose slightly from 2.3 percent in the third quarter of 1955 to 2.7 percent in the fourth quarter. The increase was entirely in the "for rent" segment which rose from 1.8 to 2.2 percent. The "for sale" portion remained the same, at 0.5 percent of all dwelling units in the United States.

Vacant dwelling units available for occupancy [1]	Housing vacancy rates (percent)		
	4th quarter 1955	3d quarter 1955	April 1950
All vacancies, all places	2.7	2.3	1.6
Northeast	1.6	1.4	1.1
North Central	2.1	1.7	1.1
South	3.5	2.9	2.0
West	4.1	4.0	2.7
For rent, all places [2]	2.2	1.8	1.1
For sale only, all places	.5	.5	.5

Source: Housing and Construction Report, Series H-111, No. 3, Bureau of the Census, U. S. Department of Commerce. Price, 10 cents a copy. [1] Nonseasonal, not dilapidated units. [2] Comprises vacant units offered for rent, as well as those being offered for rent or for sale.

Table 6.--New Nonfarm Dwelling Units Started, by Ownership, Location, and Type of Structure

Period	Total	Ownership		Location [1]		Type of structure			
		Private	Public	Metropolitan	Nonmetropolitan	1-family houses	Units in 2-or-more family structures: All	2-4 family	5-or-more family
	NUMBER OF NEW DWELLING UNITS *(in thousands)*								
Year: 1946	670.5	662.5	8.0	(2)	(2)	590.0	80.5	(3)	(3)
1947	849.0	845.6	3.4	(2)	(2)	740.2	108.8	(3)	(3)
1948	931.6	913.5	18.1	(2)	(2)	766.6	165.0	(3)	(3)
1949	1,025.1	988.8	36.3	(2)	(2)	794.3	230.8	(3)	(3)
1950	1,396.0	1,352.2	43.8	1,021.6	374.4	1,154.1	241.9	(3)	(3)
1951	1,091.3	1,020.1	71.2	776.8	314.5	900.1	191.2	(3)	(3)
1952	1,127.0	1,068.5	58.5	794.9	332.1	942.5	184.5	(3)	(3)
1953	1,103.8	1,068.3	35.5	803.5	300.3	937.8	166.0	(3)	(3)
1954	1,220.4	1,201.7	18.7	896.9	323.5	1,077.9	142.5	51.9	90.6
1955	1,328.7	1,309.0	19.7	975.2	353.5	(4)	(4)	(4)	(4)
1955: January	87.6	87.3	.3	68.1	19.5	78.3	9.3	3.6	5.7
February	89.9	87.9	2.0	66.9	23.0	78.9	11.0	3.9	7.1
March	113.8	112.8	1.0	86.8	27.0	100.1	13.7	5.0	8.7
April	132.0	130.5	1.5	96.8	35.2	119.9	12.1	4.7	7.4
May	137.6	135.1	2.5	99.7	37.9	122.2	15.4	5.1	10.3
June	134.8	131.4	3.4	98.9	35.9	121.5	13.3	4.4	8.9
July	122.6	121.9	.7	88.3	34.3	113.5	9.1	3.9	5.2
August	124.7	122.3	2.4	91.5	33.2	111.6	13.1	3.8	9.3
September	114.9	113.6	1.3	83.5	31.4	104.1	10.8	3.6	7.2
October	105.8	104.8	1.0	76.5	29.3	95.1	10.7	3.7	7.0
November	90.0	89.2	.8	64.5	25.5	(4)	(4)	(4)	(4)
December	75.0	72.2	2.8	53.7	21.3	(4)	(4)	(4)	(4)
1956: January	74.0	73.0	1.0	53.4	20.6	(4)	(4)	(4)	(4)
	Percent change								
January, 1955-56	-15.5	-16.4	+233.3	-21.6	+ 5.6	--	--	--	--
December 1955-January 1956	- 1.3	+ 1.1	-64.3	- .6	- 3.3	--	--	--	--
	PERCENT DISTRIBUTION								
Year: 1946	100	98.8	1.2	--	--	88.0	12.0	--	--
1947	100	99.6	.4	--	--	87.2	12.8	--	--
1948	100	98.1	1.9	--	--	82.3	17.7	--	--
1949	100	96.5	3.5	--	--	77.5	22.5	--	--
1950	100	96.9	3.1	73.2	26.8	82.7	17.3	--	--
1951	100	93.5	6.5	71.2	28.8	82.5	17.5	--	--
1952	100	94.8	5.2	70.5	29.5	83.6	16.4	--	--
1953	100	96.8	3.2	72.8	27.2	85.0	15.0	--	--
1954	100	98.5	1.5	73.5	26.5	88.3	11.7	4.3	7.4
1955	100	98.6	1.4	73.4	26.6	--	--	--	--
1955: January	100	99.7	.3	77.7	22.3	89.4	10.6	4.1	6.5
February	100	97.8	2.2	74.4	25.6	87.8	12.2	4.3	7.9
March	100	99.1	.9	76.3	23.7	88.0	12.0	4.4	7.6
April	100	98.9	1.1	73.3	26.7	90.8	9.2	3.6	5.6
May	100	98.2	1.8	72.5	27.5	88.8	11.2	3.7	7.5
June	100	97.5	2.5	73.4	26.6	90.1	9.9	3.3	6.6
July	100	99.4	.6	72.0	28.0	92.6	7.4	3.2	4.2
August	100	98.1	1.9	73.4	26.6	89.5	10.5	3.0	7.5
September	100	98.9	1.1	72.7	27.3	90.6	9.4	3.1	6.3
October	100	99.1	.9	72.3	27.7	89.9	10.1	3.5	6.6
November	100	99.1	.9	71.7	28.3	--	--	--	--
December	100	96.3	3.7	71.6	28.4	--	--	--	--
1956: January	100	98.6	1.4	72.2	27.8	--	--	--	--

Source: Department of Labor. [1] Data by urban and rural-nonfarm classification for 1920-53 are available upon request. [2] Annual data not available before 1950; monthly data not available before January 1953. [3] Not available before January 1954. Tabulations showing the number of units in 2-family and 3-or-more family structures for 1920-53 are available upon request. [4] Not yet available.

Table 7.--New Private Nonfarm Dwelling Units Started: Seasonally Adjusted Annual Rate

Year	Number of new dwelling units *(in thousands)*											
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1946	598	661	752	693	677	655	645	663	634	658	643	646
1947	619	667	679	694	735	803	854	923	1,029	1,089	1,064	962
1948	851	762	925	1,015	1,000	1,008	986	912	886	838	827	812
1949	751	745	792	879	920	950	976	1,035	1,108	1,187	1,259	1,266
1950	1,262	1,283	1,406	1,358	1,469	1,496	1,471	1,476	1,278	1,174	1,115	1,292
1951	1,333	1,192	1,093	955	984	942	914	946	1,049	1,036	973	978
1952	996	1,158	1,104	1,003	1,018	1,011	1,064	1,044	1,092	1,156	1,110	1,111
1953	1,106	1,150	1,165	1,111	1,065	1,064	1,015	988	1,014	1,050	1,077	1,060
1954	1,056	1,152	1,130	1,102	1,083	1,175	1,188	1,211	1,248	1,287	1,393	1,478
1955	1,416	1,370	1,367	1,350	1,362	1,371	1,283	1,310	1,251	1,221	1,203	1,187
1956	1,183											

Source: Department of Labor.

Chart 3

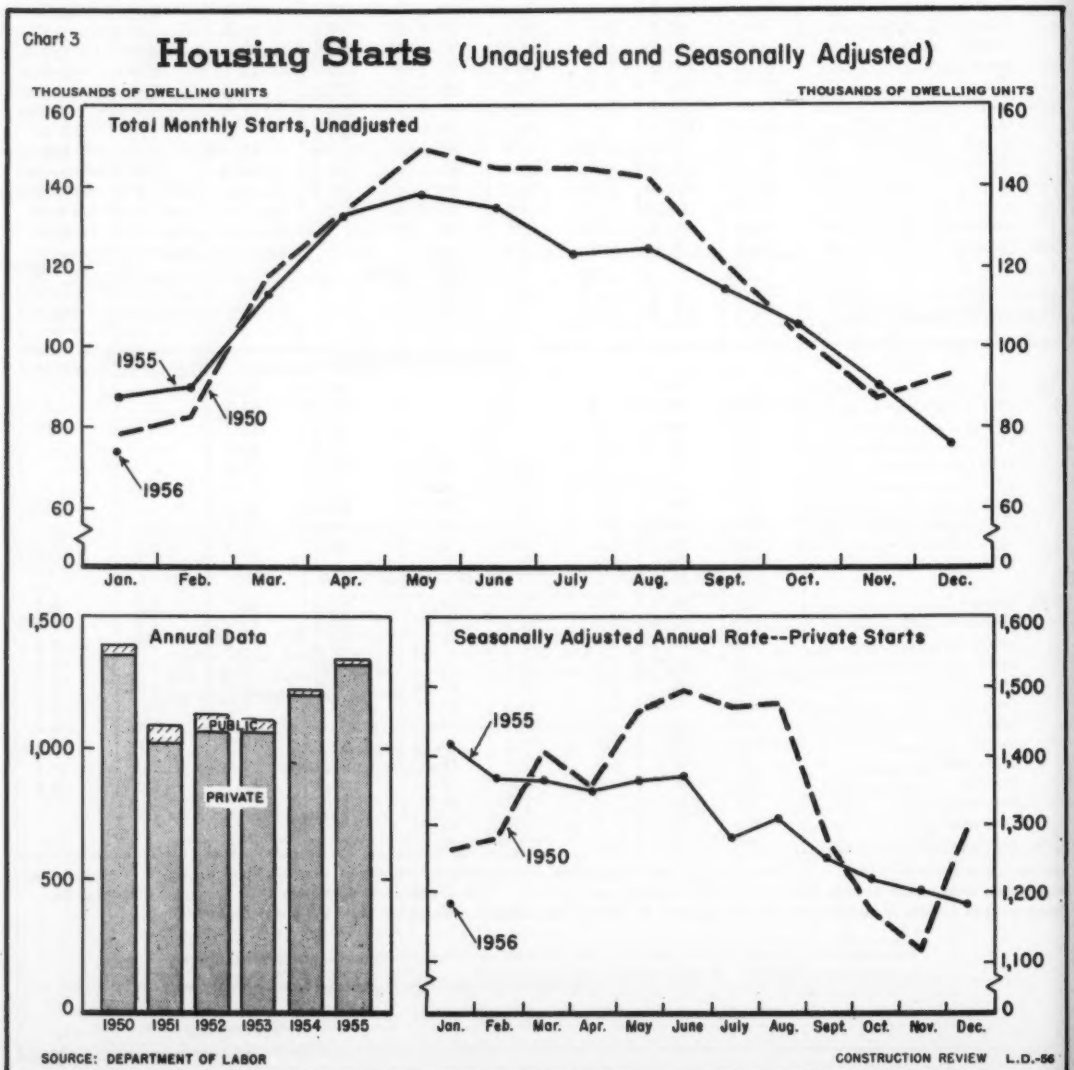


Table 8.--New Private 1-Family Houses Started: Average Construction Cost

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Year
	AVERAGE CONSTRUCTION COST												
1946	$5,250	$5,400	$5,850	$5,575	$5,475	$5,425	$5,375	$5,450	$5,450	$5,625	$5,675	$5,575	$5,525
1947	5,700	5,825	6,150	6,275	6,250	6,450	6,725	6,950	7,025	7,275	7,525	7,650	6,750
1948	7,250	7,450	7,550	7,775	7,950	8,050	8,050	8,100	7,900	7,825	7,900	7,900	7,850
1949	7,650	7,525	7,450	7,500	7,650	7,675	7,525	7,650	7,725	7,675	7,675	7,625	7,625
1950	7,625	7,850	8,225	8,450	8,450	8,750	8,875	9,125	8,900	9,200	9,075	9,200	8,675
1951	9,100	9,250	9,175	9,325	9,475	9,475	9,400	9,300	9,450	9,225	9,250	9,125	9,300
1952	9,050	9,275	9,350	9,550	9,575	9,675	9,500	9,425	9,600	9,525	9,550	9,525	9,475
1953	9,400	9,600	9,800	10,000	9,900	10,000	10,125	10,175	10,200	10,175	9,975	10,000	9,950
1954	9,750	9,800	10,075	10,600	10,850	10,750	10,850	10,750	10,675	10,800	10,850	11,075	10,625
1955	10,575	11,125	11,250	11,250	11,400	11,400	11,475	11,425	11,525	11,575	(1)	(1)	
	Percent change, 1954 to 1955												
	+8.5	+13.5	+11.7	+6.1	+5.1	+6.0	+5.8	+6.3	+8.0	+7.2	--	--	

Source: Department of Labor. [1] Not yet available.

Table 9.--New Nonfarm Dwelling Units Started, by Region [1]

Region	Number of new dwelling units *(in thousands)*											Percent change, first 10 mos. 1954-55
	1954	1955								First 10 months		
	Oct.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	1954	1955	
TOTAL	110.7	113.8	132.0	137.6	134.8	122.6	124.7	114.9	105.8	1,026.2	1,163.7	+13.4
Northeast	21.6	23.6	28.6	30.3	30.8	27.0	24.9	23.4	23.5	208.8	241.6	+15.7
North Central	30.1	28.1	37.3	40.0	39.3	35.6	38.0	34.4	29.4	279.0	317.4	+13.8
South	31.8	32.9	35.7	37.4	36.5	32.7	34.8	31.9	28.5	300.2	333.4	+11.1
West	27.2	29.2	30.4	29.9	28.2	27.3	27.0	25.2	24.4	238.2	271.3	+13.9

Source: Department of Labor. [1] Composition of regions, and nonfarm population distribution by region, are shown below table 2.

Chart 4

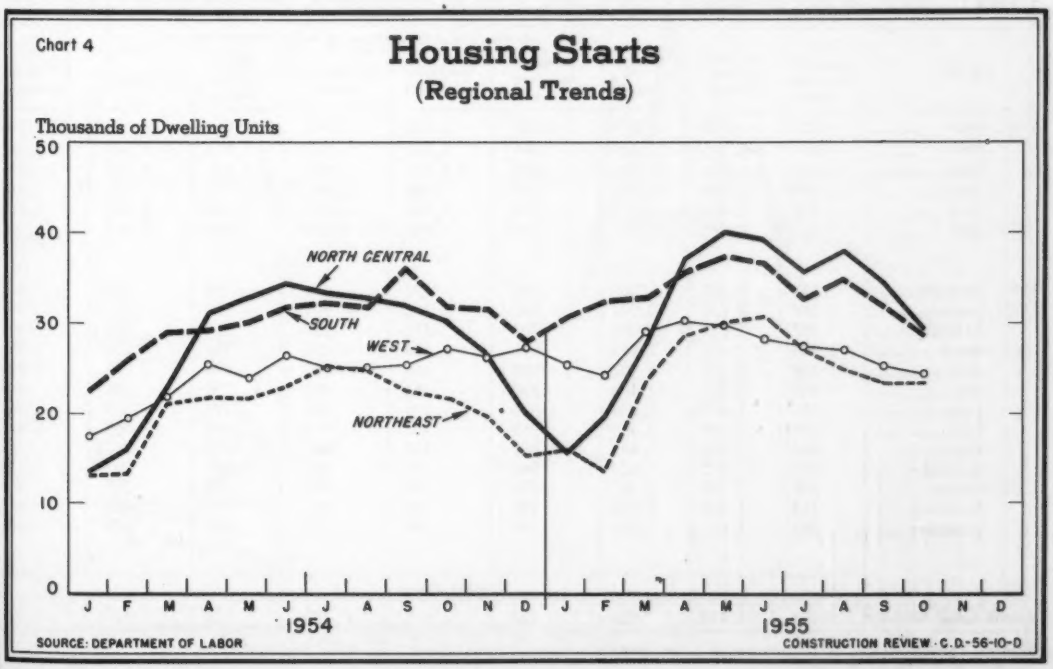


Table 10.--New Private Nonfarm Dwelling Units: Mortgages Applied for, Appraisals Requested, and Units Started Under FHA and VA Programs

Period	FHA-assisted units		VA-assisted units		Nonfarm dwelling units started		
	In applications	Started (*in thousands*)	In appraisal requests	Started (*in thousands*)	U. S. total	FHA-assisted	VA-assisted
	NUMBER OF DWELLING UNITS				PERCENT DISTRIBUTION		
Year: 1950	627,927	486.7	(1)	200.0	100	36	15
1951	268,740	263.5	164,365	148.6	100	26	15
1952	323,923	280.0	226,299	141.3	100	26	13
1953	327,323	252.0	251,437	156.6	100	24	15
1954	383,334	276.3	535,412	307.0	100	23	26
1955	314,868	277.1	620,776	391.8	100	21	30
1955: January	26,067	20.0	46,204	26.1	100	23	30
February	28,548	17.2	64,192	28.0	100	20	32
March	36,622	23.8	71,939	29.9	100	21	27
April	33,412	25.8	65,856	34.5	100	20	26
May	31,111	28.0	69,280	37.8	100	21	28
June	32,521	32.1	52,424	39.5	100	24	30
July	25,033	26.0	51,412	37.4	100	21	31
August	27,294	26.9	55,974	40.8	100	22	33
September	23,840	24.7	45,063	33.4	100	22	29
October	19,836	18.8	43,143	34.8	100	18	33
November	16,921	17.9	30,397	28.1	100	20	32
December	13,683	16.2	24,892	21.6	100	22	30
1956: January	16,362	13.0	29,284	23.0	100	18	32
	Percent change						
January, 1955-56	-37	-35	-37	-12			

Source: Table compiled by Department of Labor from data reported by the Federal Housing Administration (HHFA) and the Veterans Administration. [1] Not available.

Table 11.--Nonfarm Mortgage Recordings of $20,000 or Less: Number and Average Amount, and Total Amount by Type of Lender

Period	Total number (*in thousands*)	Average amount (*dollars*)	Total amount (*in millions of dollars*) recorded by--						
			All lenders	Savings and loan associations	Insurance companies	Commercial banks	Mutual savings banks	Individuals	All other lenders
Year: 1950	3,032	5,535	16,179	5,060	1,618	3,365	1,064	2,299	2,774
1951	2,878	5,701	16,405	5,295	1,615	3,370	1,013	2,539	2,572
1952	3,028	5,950	18,018	6,452	1,420	3,600	1,137	2,758	2,651
1953	3,164	6,241	19,747	7,365	1,480	3,680	1,327	2,841	3,055
1954	3,458	6,644	22,974	8,312	1,768	4,239	1,501	2,882	4,272
1955	3,913	7,279	28,484	10,452	1,932	5,617	1,858	3,362	5,265
1954: December	318	7,131	2,267	784	191	420	158	252	462
1955: January	284	7,120	2,024	688	165	379	128	246	419
February	277	7,077	1,958	702	151	365	116	228	396
March	343	7,153	2,455	928	174	458	134	303	459
April	328	7,182	2,357	900	165	456	136	276	424
May	344	7,215	2,483	950	163	482	153	286	449
June	360	7,312	2,636	1,024	174	516	171	301	449
July	335	7,348	2,463	953	161	472	168	283	425
August	366	7,362	2,697	1,060	163	541	179	310	463
September	342	7,377	2,522	946	155	505	168	292	456
October	326	7,320	2,387	835	153	505	167	285	441
November	314	7,380	2,316	765	152	499	171	285	443
December	293	7,457	2,188	700	156	457	166	268	441
	Percent change								
Annual total, 1954-55	+13	+10	+24	+26	+ 9	+33	+24	+17	+23

Source: Table compiled by Department of Labor from data reported by the Home Loan Bank Board (HHFA).

Table 12.--Building Permit Activity: Current Summary, by Type of Building Construction

Type of building construction	Valuation (in millions of dollars)						Percent change, Jan. 1955-56
	1956	1955			Year		
	Jan.	Dec.	Nov.	Jan.	1955	1954	
All building construction [1]	1,183.4	1,083.6	1,320.7	1,126.8	18,879.5	16,485.8	+ 5
Private	1,063.7	949.4	1,202.1	1,038.7	17,225.3	14,805.4	+ 2
Public	119.7	134.2	118.6	88.1	1,654.2	1,680.4	+36
New dwelling units [2]	641.5	592.2	721.6	702.6	11,523.0	9,855.6	- 9
Number of new dwelling units	*(63,607)*	*(57,314)*	*(70,008)*	*(76,268)*	*(1,147,150)*	*(1,074,512)*	*(-17)*
New nonresidential building	420.5	386.4	467.5	320.4	5,548.5	5,024.1	+31
Commercial buildings	136.2	118.5	154.8	106.8	1,830.8	1,591.4	+28
Stores and other mercantile buildings	63.8	66.8	70.6	57.1	994.9	859.6	+12
All other commercial buildings	72.4	51.7	84.2	49.7	835.9	731.8	+46
Community buildings	148.9	130.9	159.5	121.3	1,936.2	1,875.3	+23
Industrial buildings	79.3	59.2	92.1	44.7	828.7	662.3	+77
All other nonresidential buildings	56.1	77.8	61.0	47.6	952.8	895.1	+18
Additions, alterations, and repairs	113.6	95.6	118.1	94.9	1,647.7	1,469.9	+20

Source: Department of Labor. [1] Includes new nonhousekeeping residential building, not shown separately. [2] Housekeeping only.

Chart 5

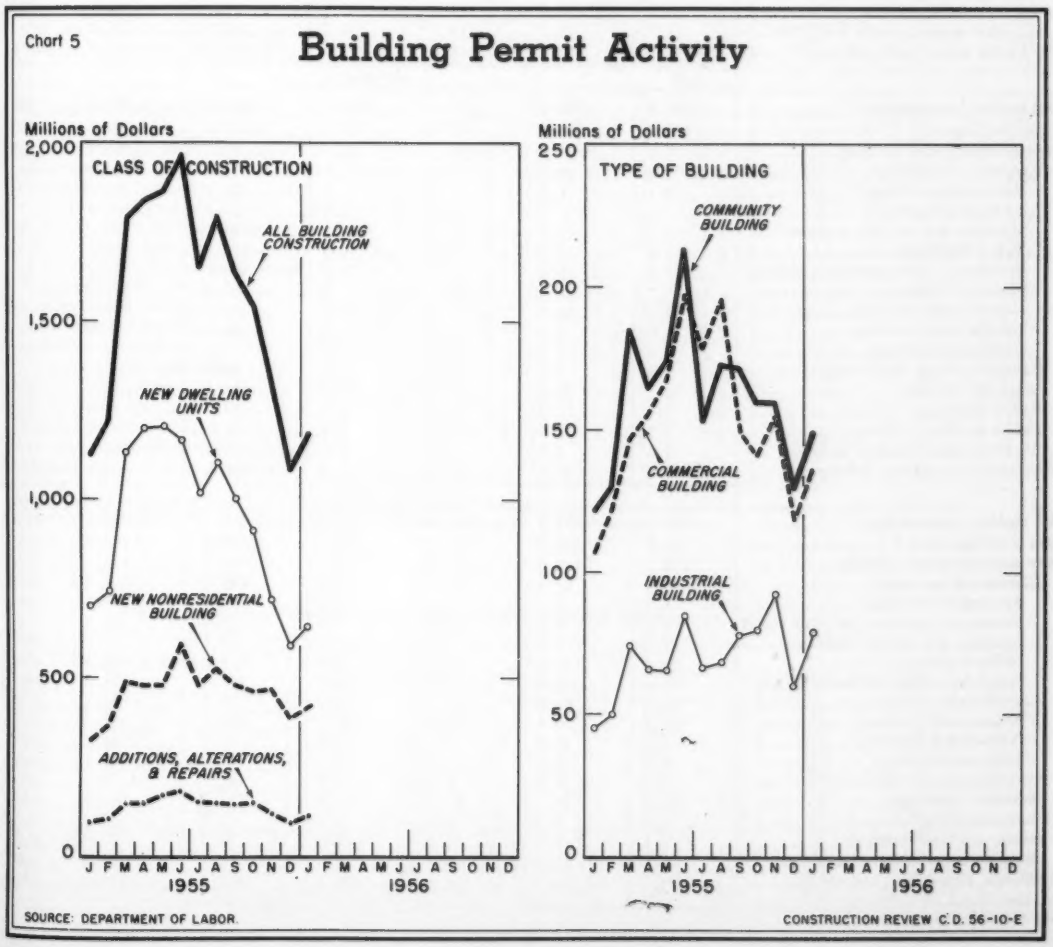


Table 13.--Building Permit Activity: Valuation, by Type of Building Construction and Region [1]

Type of building construction	Valuation (*in millions of dollars*)						Percent change, year 1954-55
	1954	1955			Year		
	Dec.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	1954	1955	
UNITED STATES							
All building construction [2]	1,228.6	1,543.0	1,320.7	1,083.6	16,485.8	18,879.5	+15
New dwelling units [3]	729.4	917.9	721.6	592.2	9,855.6	11,523.0	+17
New nonresidential building	391.7	462.7	467.5	386.4	5,024.1	5,548.5	+10
Commercial buildings	143.1	141.2	154.8	118.5	1,591.4	1,830.8	+15
Amusement buildings	7.0	6.4	6.7	4.7	97.6	99.4	+ 2
Commercial garages	3.4	8.1	3.2	4.1	60.1	66.7	+11
Gasoline and service stations	9.0	12.3	9.9	9.5	119.9	140.0	+17
Office buildings	53.4	32.5	64.4	33.4	454.1	529.9	+17
Stores and other mercantile bldgs.	70.3	82.0	70.6	66.8	859.6	994.9	+16
Community buildings	139.1	159.7	159.5	130.9	1,875.3	1,936.2	+ 3
Educational buildings	96.7	90.5	109.4	94.3	1,177.7	1,234.2	+ 5
Institutional buildings	20.2	39.4	16.3	13.0	336.2	306.6	- 9
Religious buildings	22.2	29.8	33.7	23.6	361.5	395.4	+ 9
Garages, private residential	6.8	20.0	12.6	6.2	166.4	187.6	+13
Industrial buildings	50.8	80.2	92.1	59.2	662.3	828.7	+25
Public buildings	20.2	19.7	19.6	25.9	318.1	301.0	- 5
Public utilities buildings	20.0	20.6	15.8	31.5	209.4	273.1	+30
All other nonresidential buildings	11.7	21.2	13.1	14.1	201.1	191.0	- 5
Additions, alterations, and repairs	94.4	150.2	118.1	95.6	1,469.9	1,647.7	+12
Northeast							
All building construction [2]	256.5	333.5	315.1	235.3	3,663.9	4,097.0	+12
New dwelling units [3]	141.2	208.6	157.6	130.3	2,159.1	2,494.7	+16
New nonresidential building	93.9	86.3	128.2	81.1	1,149.6	1,206.7	+ 5
Commercial buildings	32.0	29.0	57.5	26.7	355.6	404.7	+14
Amusement buildings	3.1	1.2	1.7	.6	23.1	16.2	-30
Commercial garages	.7	.7	1.0	1.5	17.7	16.4	- 7
Gasoline and service stations	1.5	2.2	1.8	2.1	20.9	23.6	+13
Office buildings	14.6	8.3	35.6	9.9	128.2	159.2	+24
Stores and other mercantile bldgs.	12.2	16.6	17.3	12.6	165.7	189.2	+14
Community buildings	42.7	24.3	38.3	27.2	439.4	437.4	(4)
Educational buildings	32.0	16.3	28.2	21.0	281.2	291.7	+ 4
Institutional buildings	7.0	2.3	2.3	1.4	86.4	56.7	-34
Religious buildings	3.7	5.7	7.9	4.8	71.9	89.0	+24
Garages, private residential	1.9	4.0	3.1	1.6	38.6	40.3	+ 4
Industrial buildings	10.2	20.8	19.8	14.9	156.1	194.2	+24
Public buildings	3.1	2.3	4.5	3.4	91.1	33.8	-63
Public utilities buildings	2.1	2.5	3.4	5.3	31.0	52.9	+71
All other nonresidential buildings	1.9	3.5	1.7	2.0	37.9	43.3	+14
Additions, alterations, and repairs	20.3	36.6	26.5	21.7	336.6	364.8	+ 8
North Central							
All building construction [2]	327.6	493.8	385.8	281.7	4,838.1	5,705.8	+18
New dwelling units [3]	181.0	281.3	214.0	144.2	2,905.8	3,486.6	+20
New nonresidential building	118.1	168.3	138.9	112.1	1,493.0	1,743.0	+17
Commercial buildings	40.3	44.4	36.9	23.6	446.1	491.4	+10
Amusement buildings	1.2	2.2	1.7	1.2	28.3	31.5	+11
Commercial garages	2.0	5.8	1.1	.8	23.9	23.7	- 1
Gasoline and service stations	2.0	3.6	2.7	2.3	38.1	43.0	+13
Office buildings	14.3	10.1	13.7	8.4	113.8	126.6	+11
Stores and other mercantile bldgs.	20.7	22.8	17.8	10.8	242.0	266.5	+10
Community buildings	36.7	61.6	55.5	40.4	528.5	639.5	+21
Educational buildings	25.7	26.1	39.6	28.1	336.9	394.2	+17
Institutional buildings	4.1	25.2	6.1	5.6	81.7	120.0	+47
Religious buildings	6.9	10.4	9.8	6.7	109.9	125.4	+14
Garages, private residential	2.2	11.2	6.0	2.0	81.6	97.6	+20
Industrial buildings	26.8	35.1	32.4	25.3	222.2	315.1	+42
Public buildings	5.4	5.3	2.0	9.2	73.2	79.2	+ 8
Public utilities buildings	4.1	7.7	3.7	9.6	90.7	92.9	+ 2
All other nonresidential buildings	2.5	2.9	2.4	1.9	50.6	27.2	-46
Additions, alterations, and repairs	23.5	42.3	28.5	23.8	404.1	447.9	+11

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 13.--Building Permit Activity: Valuation, by Type of Building Construction and Region [1]--Continued

Type of building construction	Valuation (*in millions of dollars*)						Percent change, year 1954-55
	1954	1955			Year		
	Dec.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	1954	1955	
South							
All building construction [2]	320.6	363.5	313.4	293.2	4,144.7	4,655.3	+12
New dwelling units [3]	183.9	203.1	173.2	160.2	2,339.5	2,696.1	+15
New nonresidential building	107.1	116.0	103.9	103.3	1,374.9	1,447.8	+ 5
Commercial buildings	45.3	35.2	27.8	40.3	473.1	528.5	+12
Amusement buildings	1.9	1.9	2.2	2.1	26.5	33.2	+25
Commercial garages	.2	.9	.5	1.4	10.7	19.5	+82
Gasoline and service stations	3.5	4.1	3.4	3.5	37.2	46.1	+24
Office buildings	17.9	6.2	5.2	6.6	127.9	130.9	+ 2
Stores and other mercantile bldgs.	21.8	22.2	16.6	26.7	270.7	298.8	+10
Community buildings	38.3	39.6	31.4	34.6	540.8	499.7	- 8
Educational buildings	21.5	28.0	18.6	22.7	293.9	287.4	- 2
Institutional buildings	7.2	2.4	2.4	3.4	123.8	82.5	-33
Religious buildings	9.6	9.2	10.4	8.5	123.0	129.7	+ 5
Garages, private residential	.9	1.8	1.5	1.0	17.4	19.1	+10
Industrial buildings	5.2	12.2	24.1	8.6	167.0	149.6	-10
Public buildings	7.5	10.4	9.7	6.3	79.6	107.7	+35
Public utilities buildings	7.7	6.6	6.2	7.1	50.5	86.7	+72
All other nonresidential buildings	2.2	10.2	3.3	5.5	46.5	56.6	+22
Additions, alterations, and repairs	26.3	38.7	34.9	26.1	391.9	451.1	+15
West							
All building construction [2]	323.9	352.2	306.4	273.5	3,839.1	4,421.5	+15
New dwelling units [3]	223.3	224.9	176.8	157.4	2,451.2	2,845.6	+16
New nonresidential building	72.5	92.1	96.5	89.9	1,006.6	1,151.0	+14
Commercial buildings	25.5	32.7	32.7	27.9	316.7	406.3	+28
Amusement buildings	.8	1.2	1.1	.7	19.8	18.4	- 7
Commercial garages	.5	.8	.7	.4	7.7	7.0	- 9
Gasoline and service stations	2.0	2.4	2.1	1.5	23.7	27.2	+15
Office buildings	6.6	7.9	9.9	8.5	84.3	113.2	+34
Stores and other mercantile bldgs.	15.6	20.4	18.9	16.7	181.2	240.3	+33
Community buildings	21.4	34.1	34.3	28.8	366.6	359.7	- 2
Educational buildings	17.6	20.1	23.1	22.5	265.7	261.0	- 2
Institutional buildings	1.9	9.5	5.6	2.5	44.3	47.2	+ 7
Religious buildings	2.0	4.5	5.7	3.7	56.6	51.4	- 9
Garages, private residential	1.8	3.1	2.0	1.6	28.8	30.6	+ 6
Industrial buildings	8.5	12.1	15.9	10.5	117.0	169.9	+45
Public buildings	4.2	1.7	3.4	7.0	74.2	80.3	+ 8
Public utilities buildings	6.1	3.8	2.5	9.4	37.2	40.5	+ 9
All other nonresidential buildings	5.0	4.7	5.6	4.7	66.1	63.8	- 3
Additions, alterations, and repairs	24.2	32.6	28.4	23.9	337.3	383.8	+14

Source: Department of Labor. [1] Composition of regions, and nonfarm population distribution by region, are shown below table 2. [2] Includes new nonhousekeeping residential building, not shown separately. [3] Housekeeping only.

Table 14.--Building Permit Activity: Number of Nonresidential Buildings, by Type of Building

Type of building	1954	1955						Year	
	Dec.	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	1954	1955
Amusement buildings	107	206	185	165	129	193	97	2,248	3,164
Commercial garages	150	157	230	218	233	192	143	2,421	2,270
Educational buildings	363	486	403	450	350	323	340	5,113	5,166
Garages, private residential	8,001	22,746	25,366	28,641	23,170	14,338	6,886	207,365	224,547
Gasoline and service stations	616	826	945	866	833	682	668	9,022	9,835
Industrial buildings	690	1,131	1,236	1,231	1,256	1,183	939	9,582	13,744
Institutional buildings	77	73	106	68	98	77	47	988	933
Office buildings	429	610	631	765	566	521	432	5,433	6,864
Religious buildings	278	505	525	479	447	416	303	5,453	5,428
Stores & other mercantile bldgs.	2,154	2,854	3,265	2,735	2,799	2,380	2,063	34,288	34,572

Source: Department of Labor.

Table 15.--Building Permit Activity: Valuation and Number of New Dwelling Units, by Type of Structure, Public-Private Ownership, and Region [1]

(Housekeeping units only)

Ownership and type of structure	Valuation *(in millions of dollars)*					Number of dwelling units				
	1954	1955		Year		1954	1955		Year	
	Dec.	Nov.	Dec.	1954	1955	Dec.	Nov.	Dec.	1954	1955
UNITED STATES										
All new dwelling units	729.4	721.6	592.2	9,855.6	11,523.0	77,394	70,008	57,314	1,074,512	1,147,150
Privately owned	718.0	717.7	580.4	9,696.3	11,374.3	76,020	69,586	56,246	1,056,507	1,131,293
1-family	665.4	674.0	542.8	8,917.0	10,634.8	66,300	62,838	50,054	927,822	1,013,676
2-4 family	23.8	20.2	15.5	298.7	291.5	4,660	3,163	2,512	50,669	46,193
5-or-more family	28.9	23.5	22.1	480.7	448.0	5,060	3,585	3,680	78.016	71,424
Publicly owned	11.3	3.8	11.8	159.3	148.7	1,374	422	1,068	18,005	15,857
Northeast										
All new dwelling units	141.2	157.6	130.3	2,159.1	2,494.7	14,021	14,723	11,826	222,086	241,856
Privately owned	129.9	154.1	125.4	2,077.5	2,412.1	12,647	14,304	11,250	213,099	232,639
1-family	117.6	141.1	116.1	1,826.8	2,178.1	10,904	12,736	9,907	179,408	201,821
2-4 family	4.0	4.3	3.5	59.0	58.8	597	593	581	8,726	8,467
5-or-more family	8.2	8.6	5.7	191.8	175.1	1,146	975	762	24,965	22,351
Publicly owned	11.3	3.6	4.9	81.5	82.6	1,374	419	576	8,987	9,217
North Central										
All new dwelling units	181.0	214.0	144.2	2,905.3	3,486.6	16.339	17.611	11,652	272,344	298,318
Privately owned	181.0	214.0	144.2	2,867.8	3,452.0	16,339	17,611	11,652	268,169	294,816
1-family	172.4	205.2	138.0	2,724.1	3,303.8	15,329	16,598	10,944	250,023	276,920
2-4 family	4.7	5.8	3.5	76.6	81.9	561	635	397	9,307	9,181
5-or-more family	3.9	3.0	2.8	67.1	66.3	449	378	311	8,839	8,715
Publicly owned	0	0	0	38.0	34.6	0	0	0	4,175	3,502
South										
All new dwelling units	183.9	173.2	160.2	2,339.5	2,696.1	22,036	19,490	17,842	297,664	309,091
Privately owned	183.9	172.9	156.8	2,315.9	2,680.9	22,036	19,488	17,600	294,798	307,546
1-family	171.3	165.2	149.2	2,166.3	2,549.8	19,163	17,837	16,127	262,393	279,663
2-4 family	6.7	3.7	3.9	65.2	61.3	1,601	828	765	14,223	13,076
5-or-more family	5.9	3.9	3.7	84.4	69.7	1,272	823	708	18,182	14,807
Publicly owned	0	.2	3.5	23.6	15.2	0	2	242	2,866	1,545
West										
All new dwelling units	223.3	176.8	157.4	2,451.2	2,845.6	24,998	18,184	15,994	282,418	297,885
Privately owned	223.3	176.8	154.1	2,435.0	2,829.5	24,998	18,183	15,744	280,441	296,292
1-family	204.1	162.5	139.4	2,199.8	2,602.9	20,904	15,667	13,076	235,998	255,272
2-4 family	8.3	6.4	4.7	97.8	89.7	1,901	1,107	769	18,413	15,469
5-or-more family	10.9	7.9	10.0	137.4	137.0	2,193	1,409	1,899	26,030	25,551
Publicly owned	0	(2)	3.4	16.2	16.2	0	1	250	1,977	1,593

Source: Department of Labor. [1] Composition of regions, and nonfarm population distribution by region, are shown below table 2.
[2] Less than $50,000.

Chart 6.

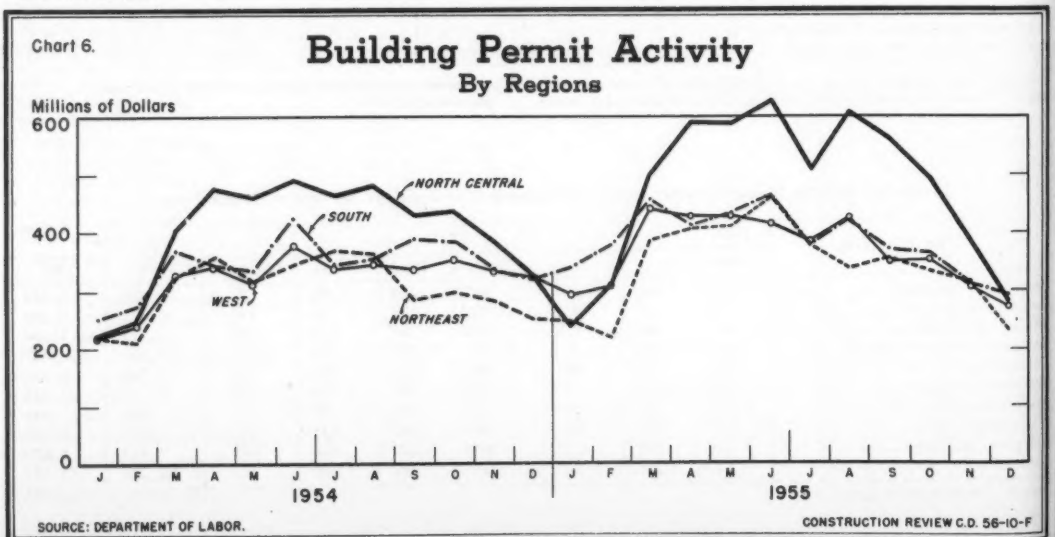


Table 16.--Building Permit Activity: Valuation, by Metropolitan-Nonmetropolitan Location and by State

(Millions of dollars)

State	1954	1955					First 11 months		Percent change, 1st 11 mos. 1954-55
	Nov.	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	1954	1955	
ALL STATES	1,344.8	1,653.4	1,793.7	1,633.5	1,543.0	1,320.7	15,249.2	17,795.9	+17
Metropolitan areas	1,078.6	1,322.4	1,433.0	1,275.4	1,210.2	1,025.4	12,160.7	14,184.7	+17
Nonmetropolitan areas	266.2	331.0	360.7	358.1	332.8	295.3	3,088.5	3,611.2	+17
Alabama	12.5	13.4	13.6	17.8	14.1	12.1	128.0	156.2	+22
Arizona	11.0	11.2	15.8	11.1	12.0	12.8	132.6	150.1	+13
Arkansas	4.6	4.0	6.4	3.7	4.9	4.1	71.3	51.4	-28
California	226.4	263.8	296.6	237.5	249.6	216.7	2,346.6	2,868.0	+22
Colorado	17.0	27.9	24.4	22.7	26.0	20.7	221.0	264.7	+20
Connecticut	38.2	31.3	30.6	34.1	23.9	29.0	299.0	336.1	+12
Delaware	2.4	8.1	3.6	7.5	6.3	3.5	48.0	59.8	+25
District of Columbia	18.6	4.9	3.3	7.8	6.2	1.4	63.2	82.0	+30
Florida	55.9	56.8	76.8	57.4	67.6	57.0	594.2	695.4	+17
Georgia	17.9	28.8	28.6	21.9	16.2	30.3	247.7	263.1	+ 6
Idaho	3.0	3.0	3.2	4.1	3.2	3.1	29.0	34.2	+18
Illinois	83.5	109.2	137.7	135.3	99.7	81.2	916.4	1,202.1	+31
Indiana	26.1	38.2	29.7	40.9	30.2	32.8	320.5	360.5	+12
Iowa	15.2	16.2	16.9	15.3	17.4	12.2	133.6	172.8	+29
Kansas	24.9	12.9	13.7	12.1	30.0	10.9	155.0	187.7	+21
Kentucky	11.8	17.5	22.8	17.4	13.0	10.8	164.1	164.3	(1)
Louisiana	17.6	19.9	25.4	24.5	21.2	19.4	202.4	276.6	+37
Maine	2.7	2.4	2.9	2.8	3.3	3.1	25.6	27.3	+ 7
Maryland	32.9	39.2	41.3	37.4	30.8	30.6	371.9	461.2	+24
Massachusetts	36.7	46.9	35.9	40.8	43.2	29.1	365.3	420.9	+15
Michigan	68.7	101.1	124.3	109.9	109.1	71.8	940.4	1,070.0	+14
Minnesota	27.8	33.7	45.9	43.5	32.0	25.9	333.2	388.6	+17
Mississippi	4.2	4.0	4.3	3.9	3.9	3.0	54.7	47.0	-14
Missouri	20.6	30.5	33.7	33.9	26.5	22.6	281.1	316.5	+13
Montana	3.9	4.8	4.8	5.3	3.8	2.1	36.8	39.5	+ 7
Nebraska	8.1	7.2	7.7	8.3	8.5	5.2	73.5	93.7	+27
Nevada	6.3	6.0	3.8	4.6	5.1	6.3	73.3	67.9	- 7
New Hampshire	3.1	6.3	6.7	3.2	2.8	2.6	23.2	39.5	+70
New Jersey	55.8	85.2	64.7	77.0	76.1	63.6	638.3	783.4	+23
New Mexico	5.9	5.9	7.6	7.1	5.9	4.7	68.7	80.2	+17
New York	101.2	121.6	116.5	113.1	115.3	112.9	1,314.2	1,367.3	+ 4
North Carolina	11.5	18.8	18.8	16.5	15.1	13.0	168.6	202.6	+20
North Dakota	2.2	3.2	3.5	5.0	2.8	2.2	28.7	35.1	+22
Ohio	76.0	111.1	146.0	115.1	91.1	87.9	918.8	1,144.0	+25
Oklahoma	12.8	12.9	14.9	9.7	8.7	7.8	128.6	140.2	+ 9
Oregon	10.6	16.2	17.2	14.9	10.4	8.1	141.2	150.7	+ 7
Pennsylvania	45.8	76.6	74.3	81.9	65.3	70.3	690.7	831.9	+20
Rhode Island	3.8	3.7	4.1	3.4	3.1	3.8	42.6	44.3	+ 4
South Carolina	5.4	6.7	7.0	9.8	6.6	6.5	61.4	88.8	+45
South Dakota	3.0	4.4	4.3	3.6	4.3	1.9	30.9	36.1	+17
Tennessee	14.5	20.5	22.6	15.5	16.0	14.6	196.6	205.3	+ 4
Texas	83.3	88.1	87.5	76.2	83.0	65.9	858.9	962.0	+12
Utah	9.0	9.3	15.0	8.0	9.3	9.2	100.2	113.8	+14
Vermont	.6	3.2	2.0	.5	.6	.7	8.5	11.0	+29
Virginia	28.9	32.5	39.8	33.5	43.0	29.3	394.0	442.1	+12
Washington	37.4	34.3	36.1	32.6	25.7	21.8	344.3	361.0	+ 5
West Virginia	4.0	5.4	5.4	7.0	6.9	4.0	62.5	64.2	+ 3
Wisconsin	29.9	41.5	43.9	37.0	42.3	31.3	378.5	417.0	+10
Wyoming	.1.8	2.9	2.0	1.4	1.2	.9	21.4	17.9	-16

Source: Department of Labor. [1] Change of less than one-half of 1 percent.

Table 17.--Building Permit Activity: Number of New Dwelling Units, by Metropolitan-Nonmetropolitan Location and by State

(Housekeeping units only)

State	1954	1955					First 11 months		Percent change, 1st. 11 mos. 1954-55
	Nov.	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	1954	1955	
ALL STATES	87,787	98,150	108,115	96,410	89,717	70,008	996,860	1,089,836	+ 9
Metropolitan areas	69,963	77,725	85,860	74,831	69,879	53,764	797,260	862,880	+ 8
Nonmetropolitan areas	17,824	20,425	22,255	21,579	19,838	16,244	199,600	226,956	+14
Alabama	977	1,264	1,250	1,188	1,141	701	11,749	12,677	+ 8
Arizona	974	766	1,179	936	883	949	10,602	12,757	+20
Arkansas	448	278	334	257	349	309	3,844	3,971	+ 3
California	17,513	17,888	19,139	16,768	16,918	12,855	180,965	200,874	+11
Colorado	1,661	1,544	1,648	1,823	1,484	1,413	17,007	19,084	+12
Connecticut	1,532	1,888	1,520	1,443	1,186	1,160	16,404	16,845	+ 3
Delaware	161	550	188	460	412	203	3,468	4,009	+16
District of Columbia	90	192	107	150	117	97	2,660	2,702	+ 2
Florida	4,961	3,843	4,942	4,090	4,343	3,840	44,802	49,276	+10
Georgia	1,890	1,715	1,874	1,522	1,285	1,179	19,288	18,648	- 3
Idaho	206	147	189	237	133	113	1,558	1,818	+17
Illinois	4,595	5,631	8,369	6,902	4,875	4,054	50,641	65,198	+29
Indiana	1,997	2,105	1,823	2,727	1,585	1,084	20,378	20,204	- 1
Iowa	780	895	952	821	813	673	7,511	9,318	+24
Kansas	1,179	956	926	707	643	578	10,209	9,865	- 3
Kentucky	764	1,163	1,807	1,221	844	903	10,303	12,185	+18
Louisiana	1,085	1,072	1,018	1,376	1,116	1,070	12,738	13,727	+ 8
Maine	95	136	146	164	168	88	1,183	1,405	+19
Maryland	2,504	2,095	2,662	2,343	1,937	1,942	28,772	28,687	(1)
Massachusetts	1,988	2,069	2,060	2,578	2,066	1,592	20,870	23,860	+14
Michigan	4,076	5,559	6,836	5,612	5,681	3,680	56,647	59,277	+ 5
Minnesota	1,526	1,800	1,908	2,136	1,375	1,189	16,395	18,148	+11
Mississippi	355	312	293	357	265	262	3,898	3,488	-11
Missouri	1,053	1,717	1,752	1,677	1,214	869	15,416	16,429	+ 7
Montana	233	213	198	198	212	78	1,832	1,958	+ 7
Nebraska	575	522	572	412	438	367	5,091	5,627	+11
Nevada	214	374	257	231	300	467	4,421	3,774	-15
New Hampshire	159	206	230	235	201	167	1,581	2,142	+35
New Jersey	3,416	5,497	4,592	4,770	4,454	3,391	45,491	50,468	+11
New Mexico	569	516	549	474	490	299	6,167	5,972	- 3
New York	5,873	7,800	8,408	7,247	8,648	5,196	83,072	88,725	+ 7
North Carolina	818	995	1,058	1,046	1,015	815	11,187	12,446	+11
North Dakota	169	161	180	211	188	63	1,688	1,623	- 4
Ohio	4,226	5,383	7,155	6,020	4,703	3,422	50,990	58,373	+14
Oklahoma	944	777	784	770	488	463	9,711	9,224	- 5
Oregon	646	914	768	679	500	365	7,411	7,319	- 1
Pennsylvania	2,421	4,492	4,048	3,413	3,514	2,851	35,989	43,044	+20
Rhode Island	269	293	310	216	221	251	3,169	3,210	+ 1
South Carolina	378	414	426	395	484	380	4,447	5,060	+14
South Dakota	232	207	224	246	258	118	2,067	2,270	+10
Tennessee	1,162	1,443	1,541	1,187	1,085	940	14,796	16,147	+ 9
Texas	6,104	5,062	5,560	4,676	5,032	4,387	62,843	65,553	+ 4
Utah	560	576	998	446	599	586	6,506	7,193	+11
Vermont	41	34	51	30	29	27	305	331	+ 9
Virginia	2,361	2,559	2,790	2,100	2,424	1,791	28,092	30,391	+ 8
Washington	1,866	1,906	1,940	1,520	1,290	1,008	19,431	19,969	+ 3
West Virginia	227	300	307	311	242	208	2,772	3,058	+10
Wisconsin	1,767	1,787	2,095	1,976	1,973	1,514	18,972	20,334	+ 7
Wyoming	147	134	152	106	96	51	1,521	1,173	-23

Source: Department of Labor. [1] Change of less than one-half of 1 percent.

Table 18.--Building Permit Activity: Valuation, in Selected Metropolitan Areas

(Millions of dollars)

Metropolitan area	1954	1955					First 11 months		Percent change, 1st 11 mos. 1954-55
	Nov.	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	1954	1955	
Atlanta, Ga.	12.2	19.0	21.3	14.6	9.4	10.4	154.6	162.6	+ 5
Baltimore, Md.	19.2	22.2	19.5	17.2	17.0	18.5	209.2	245.8	+17
Birmingham, Ala.	4.0	5.3	6.3	7.3	5.8	6.4	48.2	67.7	+40
Boston, Mass.	22.7	24.3	18.7	18.1	23.8	15.0	206.1	226.2	+10
Buffalo, N. Y.	9.4	19.8	14.2	16.2	13.4	11.2	139.0	154.8	+11
Chicago, Ill.	74.0	97.3	122.5	112.9	93.5	72.4	816.5	1,064.9	+30
Cleveland, Ohio	22.0	35.9	40.2	36.4	29.3	27.4	270.0	344.4	+28
Columbus, Ohio	8.4	13.3	27.9	11.0	9.6	10.4	112.9	142.0	+26
Denver, Colo.	11.2	12.7	13.9	11.8	15.3	13.2	147.3	159.7	+ 8
Detroit, Mich.	47.8	66.3	85.5	76.2	69.9	45.8	637.9	716.0	+12
Indianapolis, Ind.	10.6	11.2	8.4	11.0	7.8	5.4	107.9	97.6	-10
Los Angeles, Calif.	122.9	117.5	162.5	120.6	123.3	87.7	1,205.9	1,434.1	+19
Memphis, Tenn.	5.3	7.0	5.3	4.2	5.3	5.6	76.6	72.7	- 5
Miami, Fla.	21.0	16.4	28.4	17.0	22.6	16.9	214.5	243.2	+13
Milwaukee, Wis.	13.7	15.7	19.3	12.5	15.7	13.6	181.1	166.5	- 8
New York-Northeastern New Jersey	105.1	125.4	119.4	123.3	123.3	120.0	1,372.8	1,434.5	+ 4
Norfolk-Portsmouth, Va.	4.5	3.7	3.8	3.5	5.5	4.9	64.0	62.6	- 2
Phoenix, Ariz.	8.1	7.3	9.1	7.0	6.6	8.1	86.7	99.0	+14
Rochester, N. Y.	4.9	8.6	6.1	6.2	5.1	8.4	58.3	80.2	+38
Salt Lake City, Utah	4.6	4.4	8.5	4.6	4.8	4.8	55.3	58.1	+ 5
San Diego, Calif.	11.0	13.7	13.9	12.4	12.4	13.5	135.9	155.2	+14
San Francisco-Oakland, Calif.	31.5	56.8	49.4	39.4	42.0	41.1	381.3	480.7	+26
Seattle, Wash.	21.1	14.1	18.6	13.9	10.7	10.9	154.8	163.8	+ 6
Washington, D. C.	36.4	27.1	29.9	31.6	27.7	16.1	288.0	367.0	+27

Source: Department of Labor.

Table 19.--Building Permit Activity: Number of New Dwelling Units, in Selected Metropolitan Areas

(Housekeeping only)

Metropolitan area	1954	1955					First 11 months		Percent change, 1st. 11 mos. 1954-55
	Nov.	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	1954	1955	
Atlanta, Ga.	1,260	990	1,186	964	664	643	11,551	10,969	- 5
Baltimore, Md.	1,475	1,050	1,304	919	1,052	1,219	14,474	14,355	- 1
Birmingham, Ala.	392	412	564	503	412	285	4,468	5,018	+12
Boston, Mass.	1,016	1,071	1,035	933	921	658	9,997	10,767	+ 8
Buffalo, N. Y.	558	1,483	1,075	1,054	769	520	8,443	10,509	+24
Chicago, Ill.	4,155	4,963	7,555	5,862	4,396	3,518	45,767	57,781	+26
Cleveland, Ohio	911	1,452	1,756	1,508	1,263	868	12,249	15,155	+24
Columbus, Ohio	594	771	946	578	572	348	6,834	7,249	+ 6
Denver, Colo.	1,200	981	993	945	771	873	11,503	12,403	+ 8
Detroit, Mich.	2,810	3,358	4,559	3,481	3,602	2,515	38,990	38,797	(1)
Indianapolis, Ind.	774	646	511	787	367	341	6,421	5,738	-11
Los Angeles, Calif.	9,393	8,102	9,037	8,417	7,735	4,632	94,310	97,945	+ 4
Memphis, Tenn.	443	595	448	395	242	409	6,315	6,652	+ 5
Miami, Fla.	1,725	1,086	1,648	1,190	1,327	1,021	15,146	15,429	+ 2
Milwaukee, Wis.	834	679	825	612	802	589	8,871	7,793	-12
New York-Northeastern New Jersey	5,997	7,642	8,190	7,493	8,742	5,274	87,424	91,189	+ 4
Norfolk-Portsmouth, Va.	562	412	341	234	425	334	6,277	5,521	-12
Phoenix, Ariz.	819	503	793	709	626	720	7,947	9,356	+18
Rochester, N. Y.	416	501	427	429	262	291	3,727	4,482	+20
Salt Lake City, Utah	306	296	578	205	299	386	3,966	3,995	+ 1
San Diego, Calif.	1,048	1,057	904	1,014	945	897	9,349	10,646	+14
San Francisco-Oakland, Calif.	2,197	3,199	2,955	2,481	2,723	1,946	26,108	30,547	+17
Seattle, Wash.	857	929	1,005	709	657	519	8,981	9,412	+ 5
Washington, D. C.	1,482	1,604	1,627	1,829	1,483	953	21,388	21,112	- 1

Source: Department of Labor. [1]Change of less than one-half of 1 percent.

Table 20.--Building Permit Activity: Valuation in Selected Metropolitan Areas by Type of Building Construction

November 1955 *(Thousands of dollars)*

Type of building construction	Atlanta, Ga.	Baltimore, Md.	Birmingham, Ala.	Boston, Mass.	Buffalo, N. Y.	Chicago, Ill.	Cleveland, Ohio	Columbus, Ohio
All building construction [1]	10,431	18,543	6,370	14,998	11,178	72,379	27,353	10,407
New dwelling units [2]	5,889	12,263	2,376	7,522	5,111	47,190	15,001	5,103
New nonresidential building	3,879	4,300	2,373	5,736	5,164	19,533	10,412	3,795
Commercial buildings	616	1,105	880	1,955	3,537	5,219	1,544	627
Amusement buildings	302	24	13	5	15	455	211	38
Commercial garages	0	50	0	22	0	415	21	11
Gasoline and service stations	99	126	40	90	123	541	57	35
Office buildings	0	221	0	957	3,050	1,245	734	200
Stores and other mercantile bldgs.	215	685	827	881	349	2,564	522	343
Community buildings	1,646	1,898	1,023	2,956	769	6,076	6,904	2,606
Educational buildings	1,078	1,235	494	2,706	769	4,850	5,497	2,549
Institutional buildings	0	0	225	0	0	0	587	20
Religious buildings	568	663	304	250	0	1,226	820	37
Garages, private residential	26	83	20	141	139	1,355	334	105
Industrial buildings	0	52	25	132	508	6,074	1,406	56
Public buildings	0	0	393	249	21	91	0	388
Public utilities buildings	1,511	1,093	0	227	11	607	211	0
All other nonresidential buildings	80	69	32	76	179	111	12	12
Additions, alterations, and repairs	664	1,960	1,621	1,740	885	3,102	1,901	1,510

Type of building construction	Denver, Colo.	Detroit, Mich.	Indianapolis, Ind.	Los Angeles, Calif.	Memphis, Tenn.	Miami, Fla.	Milwaukee, Wis.	New York-Northeastern New Jersey
All building construction [1]	13,154	45,772	5,363	87,716	5,642	16,918	13,610	120,041
New dwelling units [2]	7,413	28,906	3,778	46,301	2,460	9,743	7,680	57,599
New nonresidential building	3,150	13,438	1,321	30,661	1,988	4,793	4,924	54,381
Commercial buildings	653	4,857	852	9,599	53	1,956	536	29,893
Amusement buildings	293	366	0	394	0	156	35	626
Commercial garages	27	78	19	141	0	8	48	257
Gasoline and service stations	31	263	50	311	53	133	100	605
Office buildings	89	662	166	5,013	0	884	115	18,642
Stores and other mercantile bldgs.	212	3,489	618	3,741	0	775	237	9,762
Community buildings	1,152	3,465	169	10,313	554	819	3,473	13,839
Educational buildings	928	2,469	0	7,631	428	692	2,868	10,903
Institutional buildings	0	49	0	435	0	0	0	275
Religious buildings	224	947	169	2,247	126	127	605	2,660
Garages, private residential	141	1,005	108	528	73	71	269	795
Industrial buildings	1,190	2,728	130	6,881	1,238	568	629	5,353
Public buildings	0	630	0	94	0	809	0	2,098
Public utilities buildings	5	584	25	349	0	451	7	2,110
All other nonresidential buildings	10	169	37	2,898	70	119	11	293
Additions, alterations, and repairs	2,418	3,378	264	9,335	1,194	2,283	1,005	7,495

Type of building construction	Norfolk-Portsmouth, Va.	Phoenix, Ariz.	Rochester, N. Y.	Salt Lake City, Utah	San Diego, Calif.	San Francisco-Oakland, Calif.	Seattle, Wash.	Washington, D. C.
All building construction [1]	4,904	8,128	8,361	4,847	13,481	41,115	10,949	16,064
New dwelling units [2]	2,842	5,461	3,295	4,175	9,061	21,076	5,636	10,649
New nonresidential building	889	2,222	4,744	466	3,581	13,797	4,168	3,988
Commercial buildings	137	1,675	446	232	2,053	3,285	2,113	1,574
Amusement buildings	13	7	45	0	320	0	0	18
Commercial garages	0	11	282	0	0	31	130	8
Gasoline and service stations	61	45	49	15	42	229	251	120
Office buildings	13	190	0	92	694	571	401	342
Stores and other mercantile bldgs.	50	1,423	70	125	996	2,454	1,332	1,086
Community buildings	0	319	135	0	526	6,099	917	1,568
Educational buildings	0	103	0	0	200	2,563	515	924
Institutional buildings	0	65	20	0	110	3,198	400	0
Religious buildings	0	151	115	0	217	338	2	644
Garages, private residential	70	17	83	49	206	157	46	38
Industrial buildings	18	67	4,074	90	260	1,578	385	225
Public buildings	652	0	0	0	0	1,980	562	529
Public utilities buildings	0	0	0	0	174	63	25	0
All other nonresidential buildings	12	144	6	94	362	635	120	55
Additions, alterations, and repairs	1,165	443	318	206	825	4,446	1,145	1,407

Source: Department of Labor. [1] Includes new nonhousekeeping residential building, not shown separately. [2] Housekeeping only.

Table 21.--Contract Awards: Public Construction, by Ownership and Type of Construction [1]

Ownership and type of construction [2]	Value (*in millions of dollars*)									Percent change, year 1954-55
	1954*	1955						Year		
	Dec.	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	1954*	1955	
ALL PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION	745.4	709.3	723.5	740.4	677.4	660.4	931.5	8,259.2	8,953.8	+ 8
FEDERALLY OWNED	104.2	47.8	60.6	129.1	98.7	107.2	180.0	1,371.1	1,499.9	+ 9
Residential building	0	1.2	1.3	.1	.1	2.6	33.5	3.9	60.7	(3)
Nonresidential building	43.2	28.3	36.6	65.6	36.4	39.5	76.6	811.4	845.2	+ 4
Educational	.1	.8	.2	4.6	.1	1.4	10.9	14.9	20.9	+ 40
Hospital and institutional	.4	1.2	4.0	3.3	1.1	.3	.7	72.9	77.5	+ 6
Administrative and general	1.5	1.4	2.4	20.9	3.6	4.1	6.1	38.8	66.1	+ 70
Other nonresidential building	41.2	24.9	30.0	36.8	31.6	33.7	58.9	684.8	680.7	- 1
Airfield building	10.1	1.5	.4	1.8	3.4	4.3	4.9	90.9	102.8	+ 13
Industrial	19.9	10.4	10.3	16.6	18.7	15.0	28.0	334.8	297.3	- 11
Troop housing	3.2	.6	3.1	1.5	2.8	3.5	6.3	68.5	53.8	- 21
Warehouses	2.3	7.8	9.6	2.9	2.8	2.3	4.7	82.5	83.9	+ 2
All other	5.7	4.6	6.6	14.0	3.9	8.6	15.0	108.1	142.9	+ 32
Airfields	5.9	3.1	3.6	4.8	9.2	15.3	24.6	153.1	156.4	+ 2
Conservation and development	19.3	9.4	8.9	49.1	42.5	24.6	23.9	207.4	268.7	+ 30
Highway	6.7	4.5	4.8	6.3	4.2	2.4	3.8	62.2	58.5	- 6
Electric power	15.6	.5	1.8	.7	2.6	3.5	8.9	66.8	38.8	- 42
All other federally owned	13.5	.8	3.6	2.5	3.7	19.3	8.7	66.3	71.6	+ 8
STATE AND LOCALLY OWNED	641.2	661.7	662.9	611.3	578.7	553.2	751.5	6,888.1	7,453.9	+ 8
Residential building	9.8	18.1	27.5	17.7	18.7	14.3	11.7	254.6	210.1	- 17
Nonresidential building	246.7	284.9	219.0	208.2	230.6	192.7	286.7	2,870.7	2,851.4	- 1
Educational	172.8	215.7	146.2	159.7	165.8	139.3	236.1	2,077.9	2,107.2	+ 1
Hospital and institutional	21.8	15.5	14.0	16.9	19.9	10.5	13.4	246.4	195.3	- 21
Administrative and general	14.8	22.5	35.5	13.2	27.3	13.8	23.2	253.5	263.0	+ 4
Other nonresidential building	37.3	31.2	23.3	18.4	17.6	29.1	14.0	292.9	285.9	- 2
Highway	270.2	255.8	282.0	242.1	215.1	229.9	320.7	2,684.7	2,933.5	+ 9
Sewerage systems	33.3	38.7	43.2	65.8	35.6	24.7	53.2	472.7	501.9	+ 6
Water supply facilities	28.9	26.5	39.4	37.0	35.7	58.8	35.2	292.7	393.6	+ 34
Utilities	42.4	28.0	40.3	24.2	29.2	26.2	32.4	197.4	433.8	+120
Electric power	27.4	4.7	21.1	9.7	15.4	18.5	11.9	105.3	247.4	+135
Other utilities	15.0	23.3	19.2	14.5	13.8	7.7	20.5	92.1	186.4	+102
All other State and locally owned	9.9	9.7	11.5	16.3	13.8	6.6	11.6	115.3	129.6	+ 12

Source: Departments of Commerce and Labor. [1] Includes major force-account projects started, principally by TVA and State highway departments. [2] Types not shown separately are included in the appropriate "other" category. [3] Percent increase exceeds 300. * Includes revisions for federally owned components. Revised data for months not shown here may be had upon request. Regular annual revisions covering 1955 data for all types of projects will appear in a subsequent issue.

Table 22.--Contract Awards: Highway Construction, by Ownership, Source of Funds, and Type of Facility [1]

Ownership, source of funds, and type of facility	Value (*in millions of dollars*)									Percent change, year 1954-55
	1954	1955						Year		
	Dec.	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	1954	1955	
ALL HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION	276.9	260.3	286.8	248.4	219.3	232.3	324.5	2,746.9	2,992.0	+ 9
FEDERALLY OWNED	6.7	4.5	4.8	6.3	4.2	2.4	3.8	62.2	58.5	- 6
STATE OWNED	254.0	204.3	242.2	207.1	189.2	211.4	301.5	2,300.5	2,559.8	+11
Federally aided projects:										
Total value	141.7	115.3	140.2	114.0	95.3	111.7	115.4	1,218.4	1,256.2	+ 3
Federal funds	72.1	61.4	72.0	59.3	51.6	59.8	62.2	629.5	667.4	+ 6
Independent State projects:										
Total value	112.3	89.0	102.0	93.1	94.0	99.8	186.1	1,082.1	1,303.8	+20
Toll facilities	63.1	30.0	45.2	38.8	41.8	40.7	141.5	458.9	694.9	+51
LOCALLY OWNED [2]	16.2	51.5	39.8	35.0	25.9	18.5	19.2	384.2	373.7	- 3

Source: Departments of Commerce and Labor. [1] Includes force-account work started on Federal and State projects. [2] By municipalities and counties.

Chart 7.

Contracts Awarded on Public Construction

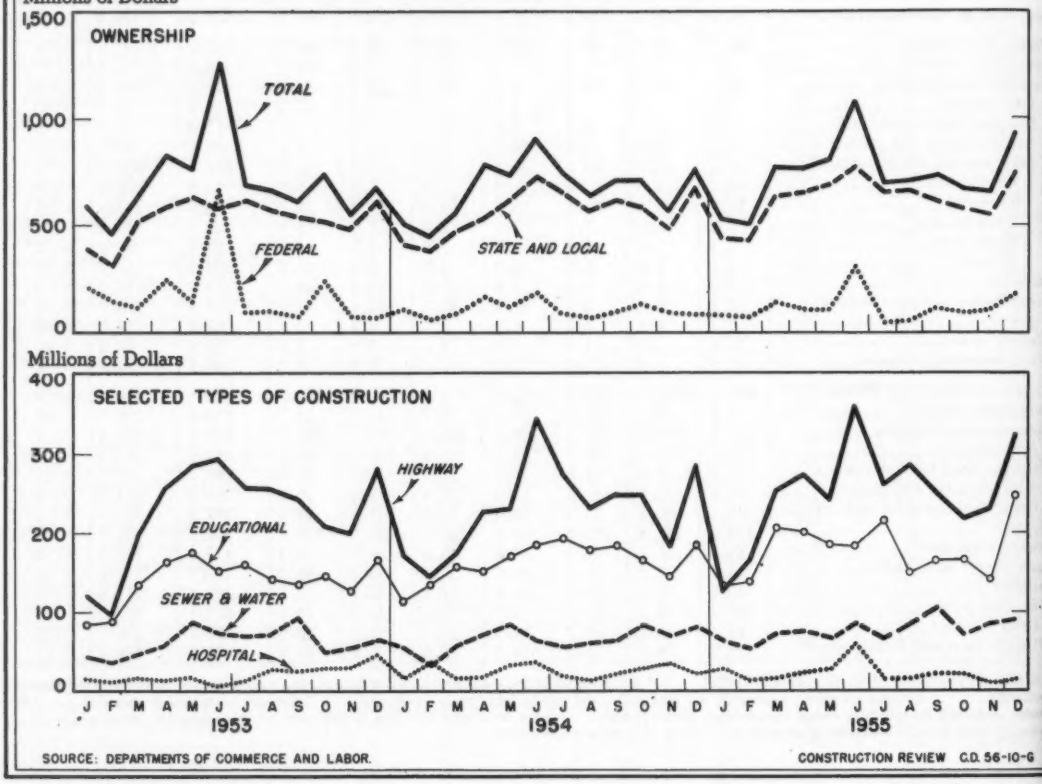


Table 23.--Contracts Awarded in 37 Eastern States

Type of construction	Value *(in millions of dollars)*			Percent change		
				January 1956 from--		
	January 1956	December 1955	Year 1955	December 1955	January 1955	Annual total, 1954-55
TOTAL	**1,858**	**1,921**	**23,745**	**- 3**	**+24**	**+20**
Building construction	1,355	1,438	18,682	- 6	+ 8	+20
Residential	694	711	10,185	- 2	+ 1	+20
Nonresidential	661	727	8,497	- 9	+17	+19
Engineering	503	483	5,063	+ 4	+102	+22
Public works	356	359	3,623	- 1	+102	+17
Utilities	147	124	1,440	+18	+94	+38

Source: Compiled by Department of Commerce from data reported by F. W. Dodge Corporation.

Table 24.--Construction Cost Indexes

Compiler and coverage	Indexes (1947-49 = 100)									Percent change, Jan. 1955-56
	1955					1956	1953	1954	1955	
	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Jan.	Jan.	Jan.	
American Appraisal Company	130.4	130.6	131.1	131.5	131.7	132.3	120.9	124.3	127.2	+ 4
Associated General Contractors	137.0	136.4	137.3	137.9	137.9	139.8	123.1	130.5	133.6	+ 5
E. H. Boeckh and Associates (20 city average):										
Residences	124.9	125.2	125.5	125.7	126.0	126.4	120.1	120.4	121.5	+ 4
Apartments, hotels, and office buildings	131.8	132.3	132.6	132.9	133.3	133.9	123.8	126.4	127.9	+ 5
Commercial and factory buildings	133.4	133.8	134.1	134.3	134.8	135.3	124.0	127.0	128.9	+ 5
Engineering News-Record (as of Feb. 1):										
Building	141.7	142.0	141.8	141.6	142.1	142.9	125.8	129.3	135.9	+ 5
Construction	148.5	148.8	148.6	148.6	149.3	150.1	129.7	135.7	142.4	+ 5
Department of Commerce composite [1]	126.2	126.5	126.7	126.8	127.0	127.7	120.4	121.4	122.7	+ 4

Source: Department of Commerce. [1] A composite of cost indexes representative of the major types of construction, weighted by the current relative importance of each type.

Table 25.--Indexes of Wholesale Prices of Building Materials, by Selected Classes

Commodity	Indexes (1947-49 = 100)									Percent change, Jan. 1955-56
	1955					1956	1953	1954	1955	
	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Jan.	Jan.	Jan.	
ALL BUILDING MATERIALS [1]	**127.4**	**128.5**	**128.7**	**128.1**	**128.3**	**129.3**	**118.5**	**119.6**	**122.1**	**+ 6**
LUMBER AND WOOD PRODUCTS:										
Lumber	126.4	127.1	126.8	126.4	126.4	127.6	120.5	115.9	120.0	+ 6
Douglas fir	134.1	134.7	132.4	130.1	130.8	133.8	123.0	110.5	126.5	+ 6
Southern pine	115.3	116.6	117.0	117.4	116.8	117.0	118.3	111.4	114.7	+ 2
Other softwoods	138.4	138.6	138.5	138.5	137.4	137.7	130.9	130.5	131.2	+ 5
Hardwoods	120.4	121.3	122.3	122.9	123.5	124.5	111.4	114.2	111.5	+12
Millwork	128.3	128.2	128.2	127.9	128.8	129.2	129.3	131.1	130.4	- 1
Plywood	105.7	106.1	106.1	105.9	105.7	106.4	108.5	103.5	104.7	+ 2
Softwood	110.7	110.7	110.7	108.9	108.4	109.8	110.5	105.8	110.4	- 1
Hardwood	102.6	103.6	103.4	105.0	105.0	105.0	107.2	101.9	100.9	+ 4
PAINT AND PAINT MATERIALS:										
Prepared paint	114.8	114.8	115.0	115.0	115.8	117.0	110.5	112.8	112.8	+ 4
Paint materials	97.6	97.6	97.4	97.1	97.4	98.6	96.1	96.5	95.8	+ 3
METAL PRODUCTS:										
Structural shapes	157.5	157.5	157.5	157.5	157.5	157.5	134.9	141.9	146.2	+ 8
Hardware, finish	139.9	140.8	143.9	143.9	143.9	143.4	122.3	137.5	138.0	+ 4
Plumbing equipment	128.1	128.1	129.4	133.1	133.1	133.1	113.6	118.2	118.7	+12
Enameled iron fixtures	131.9	131.9	131.9	131.9	131.9	131.9	122.6	129.2	129.3	+ 2
Vitreous china fixtures	123.0	122.9	123.1	124.1	124.1	124.1	103.2	111.7	111.7	+11
Brass fittings	129.4	129.4	131.7	138.1	138.1	138.1	113.1	115.9	117.1	+18
Heating equipment	116.0	117.2	117.3	117.4	117.1	117.1	113.8	115.3	113.9	+ 3
Furnaces	122.8	123.2	123.2	123.2	123.5	123.8	117.3	120.5	120.6	+ 3
Water heaters	110.9	112.0	112.0	112.0	108.9	108.9	112.8	111.0	107.7	+ 1
Metal sash	146.4	146.4	146.3	146.3	146.3	146.3	117.7	127.3	132.5	+10
NONMETALLIC MINERAL PRODUCTS:										
Glass, plate	137.5	137.5	137.5	137.5	137.5	137.5	120.9	132.0	132.0	+ 4
Glass, window	138.8	138.8	145.5	138.8	138.8	138.8	118.0	131.3	131.3	+ 6
Concrete ingredients	125.3	125.3	125.6	125.6	126.0	129.9	113.1	119.9	123.1	+ 6
Portland cement	131.8	131.7	132.2	132.3	132.3	138.7	116.4	124.8	129.9	+ 7
Concrete products	118.6	119.8	120.2	120.2	120.2	121.1	112.8	117.2	116.7	+ 4
Structural clay products	142.9	143.9	144.3	144.5	144.6	145.4	124.0	131.9	135.8	+ 7
Gypsum products	122.1	122.1	122.1	122.1	122.1	127.1	117.7	122.1	122.1	+ 4
Asphalt roofing	114.5	114.6	114.4	101.0	101.0	99.6	106.0	109.9	106.1	- 6
Insulation materials	106.7	107.1	107.1	105.7	105.8	105.7	107.3	110.1	106.7	- 1
MISCELLANEOUS PRODUCTS:										
Building board	132.7	132.7	133.3	133.3	133.3	133.3	118.2	127.9	127.6	+ 5
Kitchen cabinets, metal	133.9	136.5	136.5	136.5	136.5	136.5	125.2	127.5	128.2	+ 7

Source: Department of Labor. [1] Includes items not shown separately.

Table 26.--Wholesale Prices of Selected Building Materials

Commodity	Unit	1955		1954
		Dec.	Nov.	Dec.
LUMBER				
Douglas fir:				
Dimension, No. 1, 25% No. 2, green, S4S, 2"x4", R.L., mixed c/l, f.o.b. mill	M bd. ft.	$72.891	$71.232	$71.181
Boards, No. 1, 25% No. 2, green, S4S, R.L., 1"x8", loose, mixed c/l of boards and dimension, f.o.b. mill	M bd. ft.	67.155	67.310	67.102
Timbers, No. 1, 8"x8" to 12"x12", R.L., green, f.o.b. mill	M bd. ft.	82.304	81.993	70.887
Southern pine:				
Dimension, No. 2 and better, 2"x4"x16', dry, S.L., S4S, f.o.b. mill	M bd. ft.	83.258	83.871	81.191
Boards, No. 2 and better, 1"x6", dry, R.L., S4S, f.o.b. mill	M bd. ft.	80.679	81.474	78.199
Ponderosa pine boards, No. 3 common, 1"x8", R.L., S2 or 4S, c/l or mixed cars, f.o.b. mill	M bd. ft.	78.830	79.360	71.960
Oak, red, flooring, plain, 25/32" thick, 2-1/4" face, select, f.o.b. mill	M bd. ft.	197.414	197.414	171.907
Maple flooring, 2d grade, 25/32"x2-1/4" face, f.o.b. mill	M bd. ft.	193.278	187.099	175.556
Poplar, plain, No. 2B common, 4/4", R.W., f.o.b. mill	M bd. ft.	56.000	56.000	55.000
Beech, No. 2 common, 4/4", R.W. & L., f.o.b. mill	M bd. ft.	52.000	52.000	47.000
MILLWORK				
Door, Douglas fir, interior, 2 plywood panels, 2'6"x6'8"x1-3/8", f.o.b. factory	Each	4.477	4.528	4.829
Door frame, ponderosa pine, exterior, 1-5/16"x2" casing, with sill, f.o.b. factory	Each	9.351	9.351	9.214
Window, ponderosa pine, 2-light, check rail, open, f.o.b. factory	Each	1.665	1.665	1.648
PLYWOOD				
Douglas fir, interior, grade A-D, 1/4"x48"x96", f.o.b. mill	M sq. ft.	81.738	80.807	80.807
Douglas fir, interior, grade C-D, 5/16"x48"x96", f.o.b. mill	M sq. ft.	64.005	67.167	70.660
BOARD				
Insulation, fiber, 1/2"x48"x96", interior, f.o.b. plant, freight equalized	M sq. ft.	55.500	55.500	53.000
PREPARED PAINT				
Emulsion, water-thinned, inside, delivered	Gallon	2.437	2.399	2.372
Varnish, floor, first grade, delivered	Gallon	3.805	3.778	3.682
Enamel, white, gloss, first grade, delivered	Gallon	4.655	4.639	4.497
Inside, flat, white, first grade, delivered	Gallon	3.000	2.956	2.868
Outside, white, first grade, delivered	Gallon	4.369	4.348	4.342
METAL PRODUCTS				
Structural shapes, carbon steel, 6"x4"x1/2" angles, 30' long, ASTM spec. A-7, base quantity, f.o.b. mill	100 lb.	4.867	4.867	4.517
Bars, reinforcing, carbon steel, 3/4" rounds x 30' long with 10% shorts, spec. ASTM A-15, 50T, base quantity, f.o.b. mill	100 lb.	5.313	5.313	5.050
Sheets, galvanized, carbon steel, 24 gage x 30" wide x 96" long, commercial coating, base chemistry, base packaging, base quantity, f.o.b. mill	100 lb.	7.690	7.690	7.220
Pipe, standard, black, carbon steel, buttweld, threaded and coupled, 1-1/4" nominal, random lengths, wt. 228 lbs., f.o.b. mill	100 ft.	16.491	16,366	15.000
Pipe, standard, galvanized, carbon steel, buttweld, threaded and coupled, 1-1/4" nominal, random lengths, wt. 228 lbs., f.o.b. mill	100 ft.	20.134	19.971	18.605
Nails, wire, carbon steel, 8-penny, common, c/l, f.o.b. mill	100 lb. keg	8.595	8.618	7.815
Soil pipe, cast iron, 2" to 6", single and double hub, service pipe, extra heavy, f.o.b. foundry, index number (1947-49 = 100)	Ton	(111.3)	(111.3)	(108.4)
Aluminum sheets, 3003-H14, hard alloy, mill finish, 0.64"x48"x144", 30,000 lbs. or over, f.o.b. shipping point, freight allowed	Pound	$0.393	$0.393	(1)
Copper water tubing, type L, 3/4" size, 0.045" thick, 2,000 ft. or more in 60' coils (0.455 lbs. per linear ft.), f.o.b. mill, freight allowed	Foot	.323	.323	$0.253
Wire, building, type R, size 12, single braid, f.o.b. destination, or freight prepaid on specified amounts	M ft.	17.510	17.510	12.240
Screening, insect, bronze wire, 18x14 mesh, 30" wide, c/l, f.o.b. factory	Linear ft. roll	30.780	31.320	24.540
PLUMBING EQUIPMENT				
Bath tub, enameled iron, 5', recessed, f.o.b. factory, freight allowed	Each	55.113	55.113	53.841
Lavatory, enameled iron, 20"x18", f.o.b. plant, freight allowed	Each	13.500	13.500	12.858
Water closet, vitreous china, close coupled, reverse trap, f.o.b. plant, freight allowed	Each	24.661	24.660	21.787
Sink, enameled steel, 32"x21", flat rim, 2-compartment, acid resisting, without drainboard, f.o.b. plant, freight allowed	Each	16.634	16.634	16.058

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 26.--Wholesale Prices of Selected Building Materials--Continued

Commodity	Unit	1955		1954
		Dec.	Nov.	Dec.
HEATING EQUIPMENT				
Boiler, heating, steel, oil fired, steam rating 400 sq. ft., less burner, with jacket and standard trim, f.o.b. factory, freight allowed	*Each*	$186.122	$186.122	$186.618
Convector, nonferrous, free standing, average steam rating 43 sq. ft., E.D.R., f.o.b. factory, freight allowance	*Sq. ft., incl. enclosure*	.447	.447	.432
Furnace, warm air:				
Steel, oil fired, forced air, gun-type burner, average bonnet output 90,000-115,000 BTU per hr., f.o.b. factory, freight allowance	*Each*	247.575	247.575	252.052
Steel, gas fired, standard automatic controls, average input rating 85,000-110,000 BTU per hr., enclosing jacket, f.o.b. factory, freight allowance	*Each*	166.051	166.051	167.080
Furnace, floor, gas fired, floor grill, average input rating 40,000-60,000 BTU per hr., manual controls, f.o.b. factory	*Each*	56.392	56.392	56.967
Oil burner, mechanical forced draft (gun-type), 2-1/2 gal. per hr., thermostat, limit and stack controls, f.o.b. factory	*Each*	100.620	100.620	104.245
Water heater, gas, automatic, 30-gal. storage tank, galvanized steel, 1-year guarantee, f.o.b. factory, freight allowed	*Each*	40.954	40.954	39.079
NONMETALLIC MINERAL PRODUCTS				
Sand, construction, f.o.b. plant	*Ton*	1.199	1.195	1.154
Gravel, for concrete, 1-1/2" maximum, f.o.b. plant	*Ton*	1.443	1.437	1.380
Crushed stone, for concrete, 1-1/2" maximum, f.o.b. plant	*Ton*	1.610	1.600	1.549
Block, concrete, lightweight aggregate, 8"x8"x16", f.o.b. plant	*Each*	.177	.177	.177
Pipe, concrete, culvert, reinforced, 24" diameter, ASTM spec. C76-41 table 1, 3" wall thickness, 3'-8' lengths, delivered	*Foot*	3.910	3.910	3.646
Brick, building, f.o.b. plant	*Thousand*	30.018	29.831	28.430
Brick, face, red, first quality, textured, f.o.b. plant	*Thousand*	38.415	38.415	36.807
Tile, clay, partition, scored, 4"x12"x12", 3-cell, 16 lbs., f.o.b. plant	*Thousand*	130.431	130.431	122.219
Sewer pipe, vitrified clay, 8" diameter, 3' lengths, standard strength, f.o.b. plant	*Foot*	.504	.504	.457
Lath, gypsum, 3/8"x16"x48", f.o.b. plant, freight equalized	*M sq. ft.*	24.010	24.010	24.010
Wallboard, gypsum, 3/8"x48", varying lengths, f.o.b. plant, freight equalized	*M sq. ft.*	31.850	31.850	31.850
Plaster, gypsum, base coat, f.o.b. plant, freight equalized	*Ton*	14.948	14.948	14.948
Shingles, asphalt, strip, 210 lbs., f.o.b. factory, freight allowance	*Square*	5.025	5.025	5.298
Lime, hydrated, building, finishing, f.o.b. plant	*Ton*	19.972	19.972	17.914
Siding shingles, asbestos cement, f.o.b. plant, freight equalized	*Square*	10.306	10.306	9.697

Source: Department of Labor. [1] Not available.

APPLICATION OF NEW MINIMUM WAGE LAW TO FEDERAL AND FEDERALLY ASSISTED CONSTRUCTION

As of March 1, 1956, the Fair Labor Standards Act (known as the Federal Wage-Hour Law) provides a new $1 an hour minimum wage rate. This rate supersedes lower minimum hourly rates contained in some Federal and federally assisted construction contracts that are covered by the minimum wage provisions of the Davis-Bacon Act or related prevailing wage Acts, and the Wage-Hour Law.

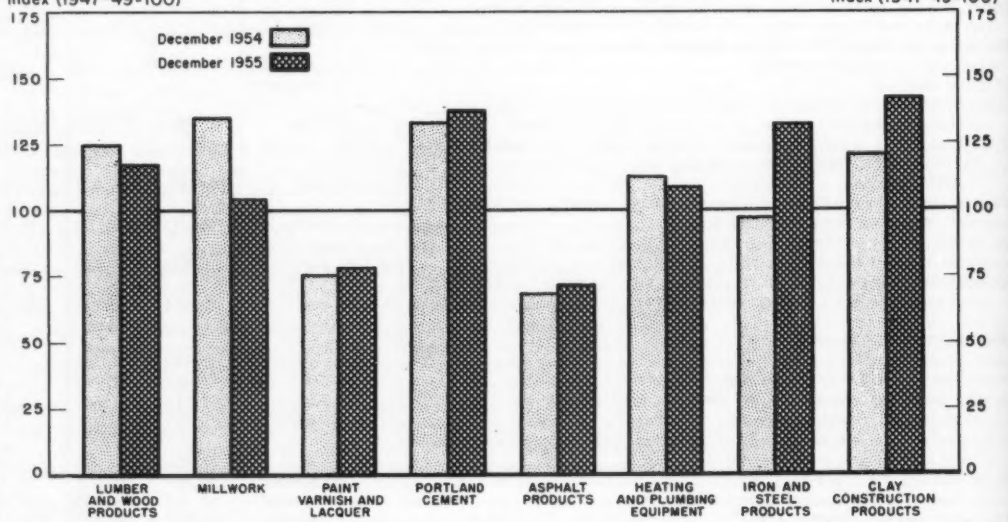
Under the Davis-Bacon and related acts, the minimum wages that must be paid on Federal and federally assisted construction contracts are the prevailing wages for the various classifications of workers on similar local projects, as determined by the Secretary of Labor.

Some construction contracts, on which work is still in progress, contain some labor classifications with wage rates of less than $1. These rates were determined to be prevailing locally at the time the contracts were awarded. As of March 1, 1956, however, building and construction workers in such lower wage-rate classifications, who are also subject to the Wage-Hour law because they are engaged in interstate commerce or in the production of goods for such commerce, became entitled to an hourly rate of not less than $1.

Contractors or workers having any questions on the subject may write to the U. S. Department of Labor, Wage and Hour and Public Contracts Division, Washington 25, D. C.

Chart 8

Indexes of Materials Output
Selected Groups of Construction Materials



SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE. CONSTRUCTION REVIEW C.D. 56-10-H

Table 27.--Construction Materials: Indexes of Output

(Monthly average 1947-49 = 100)

Materials group	Monthly Indexes												
	1954	1955											
	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Lumber and wood products	124.9	117.7	116.7	136.4	129.9	136.6	142.3	119.6	146.0	139.7	135.3	124.6	117.3
Millwork	134.8	131.4	131.0	155.2	140.3	128.7	135.9	108.8	141.7	143.1	134.3	128.3	103.9
Paint, varnish, and lacquer	75.6	94.3	86.6	114.1	117.3	127.3	133.6	110.7	117.7	116.0	100.7	94.0	78.3
Portland cement	133.3	121.0	105.3	133.6	148.5	161.7	160.1	163.5	166.7	161.1	167.0	148.9	138.0
Asphalt products	68.0	71.6	79.8	125.3	125.1	121.3	146.8	107.0	146.8	126.2	122.4	110.1	71.3
Heating and plumbing equipment	112.5	115.9	114.9	141.2	129.5	130.3	143.8	116.9	180.6	165.8	164.0	139.7	108.4
Iron and steel products	97.6	104.5	104.5	130.1	133.5	136.2	154.2	127.6	144.1	149.5	145.0	134.9	132.0
Clay construction products	120.6	113.9	109.1	133.0	127.1	136.5	147.0	135.6	150.1	151.3	148.0	146.0	141.9

	Quarterly Indexes					
	1954		1955			
	Third quarter	Fourth quarter	First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter	Fourth quarter
Gypsum products	158.9	162.2	168.9	173.7	180.3	(1)
Plumbing fixtures	101.4	123.1	133.5	141.3	130.4	142.2

Source: Table compiled by the Department of Commerce from data reported by various Government agencies and by private firms shown in notes to the tables following. [1]Not yet available.

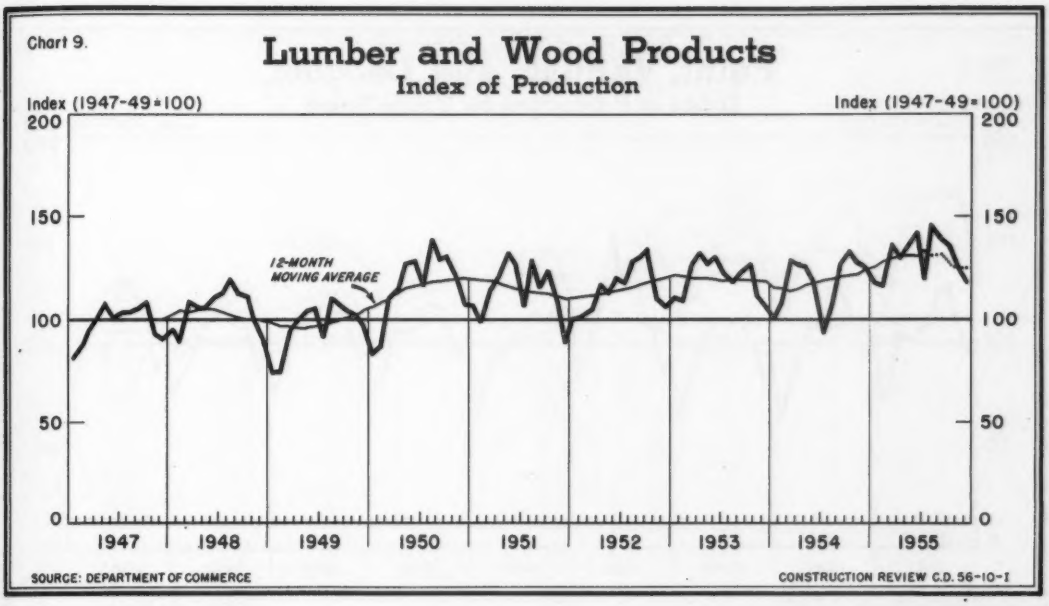


Table 28.--Lumber and Wood Products: Production, Shipments, and Stocks

Period	Softwood lumber (*Million board feet*)			Hardwood flooring (*Thousand board feet*)			Douglas fir plywood (*Million square feet*)	Insulating boards (*Tons*)	Hardboard (*Tons*)
	Production	Shipments	Stocks	Production	Shipments	Stocks	Production		
1947-49 average	28,048	27,440	4,448	812,365	789,437	44,455	1,802	766,269	294,214
Year: 1953	31,072	30,318	5,756	1,004,558	1,010,972	73,449	3,704	950,889	423,418
1954	29,296	29,798	5,275	1,145,118	1,139,091	68,425	3,825	1,013,340	493,258
1955	31,563	31,432	5,429	1,268,104	1,258,914	70,045	4,901	1,114,973	537,125
12 months ending:									
August 1955	31,659	31,906	--	1,262,397	1,259,025	--	4,726	1,093,979	525,670
September 1955	31,880	32,006	--	1,267,395	1,265,038	--	4,817	1,100,841	527,699
October 1955	31,893	31,918	--	1,268,552	1,264,831	--	4,852	1,105,224	531,142
November 1955	31,782	31,805	--	1,272,623	1,265,292	--	4,880	1,109,704	533,234
1954: December	2,499	2,479	5,275	102,284	92,910	68,425	393	84,239	38,535
1955: January	2,309	2,311	5,238	97,476	98,885	64,016	393	94,753	43,641
February	2,320	2,293	5,284	93,925	94,946	62,945	389	86,784	39,722
March	2,734	2,819	5,205	110,093	111,090	61,076	444	97,328	46,368
April	2,629	2,754	5,121	104,293	108,160	55,183	413	87,850	44,844
May	2,802	2,827	5,107	109,546	109,787	55,200	409	92,160	46,759
June	2,946	3,047	5,007	116,072	116,682	53,454	429	81,597	45,579
July	2,464	2,592	4,869	103,278	104,894	51,788	321	91,602	44,170
August	3,038	2,962	4,952	114,156	113,495	52,424	415	102,681	46,482
September	2,871	2,756	5,066	109,338	110,585	50,483	423	95,722	44,438
October	2,728	2,605	6,665	105,945	104,909	51,644	428	101,344	46,860
November	2,442	2,360	5,254	106,217	98,949	58,812	423	93,644	45,836
December	2,280	2,106	5,429	97,765	86,532	70,045	414	89,508	42,426
	Percent change								
December, 1954-55	- 9	-15	+ 3	- 4	- 7	+ 2	+ 5	+ 6	+10
Year, 1954-55	+ 8	+ 5	--	+11	+11	--	+28	+10	+ 9

Source: Table compiled by Department of Commerce (BDSA) from data reported by the National Lumber Manufacturers Association, the Douglas Fir Plywood Association, and the Bureau of the Census.

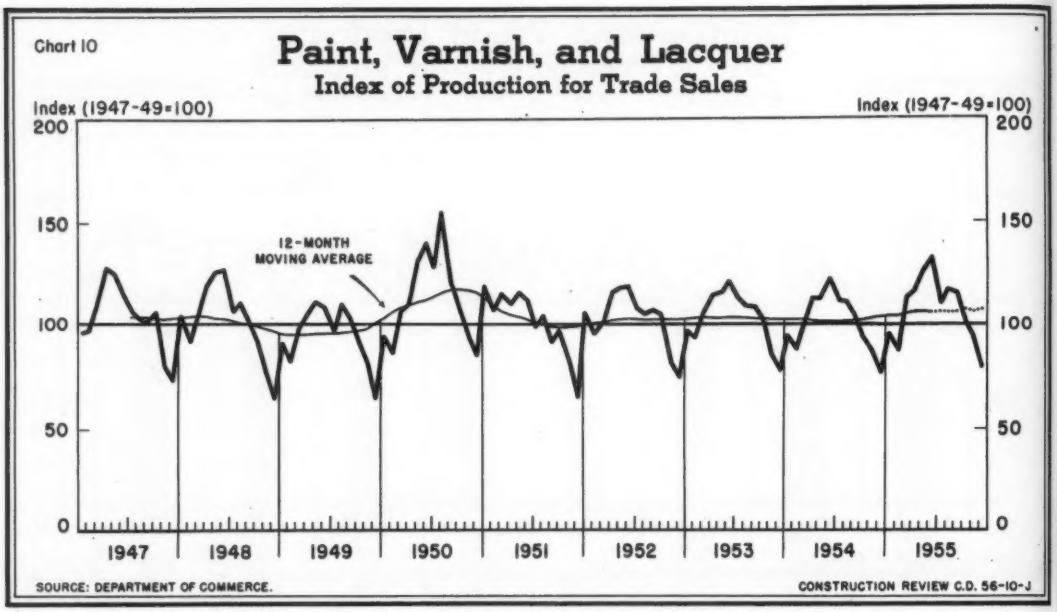


Table 29.--Millwork Products, and Paint, Varnish, and Lacquer: Production

Period	Production (*Thousands of units*)					Production for trade sales (*Thousands of gallons*)
	Douglas fir doors (panel type)	Ponderosa pine doors	Hardwood doors	Sash	Exterior frames	Paint, varnish, & lacquer
1947-49 average	5,658	3,780	3,172	11,246	4,152	266,701
Year: 1953	4,070	2,487	4,783	11,419	5,072	276,326
1954	3,522	2,285	5,940	11,054	5,791	271,235
1955	(1)	2,253	6,786	12,733	7,259	289,238
12 months ending:						
August 1955	3,764	2,368	6,963	13,106	7,271	280,566
September 1955	3,661	2,334	6,991	12,996	7,257	283,035
October 1955	(1)	2,311	6,928	12,943	7,309	284,654
November 1955	(1)	2,313	6,892	12,960	7,382	286,227
1954: December	383	209	560	1,124	537	16,775
1955: January	362	196	562	1,017	527	20,969
February	355	184	565	1,061	522	19,254
March	415	236	657	1,181	653	25,370
April	301	187	646	987	591	26,072
May	254	182	554	1,050	606	28,285
June	216	182	579	1,104	720	29,694
July	184	133	490	817	537	24,597
August	229	203	613	1,163	704	26,169
September	239	202	621	1,137	713	25,778
October	(1)	206	528	1,174	681	22,371
November	(1)	193	517	1,145	591	20,893
December	(1)	149	454	897	414	19,786
	Percent change					
December, 1954-55	(1)	-29	-19	-20	-23	+19
Year, 1954-55	(1)	- 1	+14	+15	+25	+ 7

Source: Table compiled by Department of Commerce (BDSA) from data reported by the Fir Door Institute, the National Wood Work Manufacturers Association (whose data on ponderosa pine and hardwood doors, sash and exterior frames are only from member firms, and are not adjusted to represent full coverage), and the Bureau of the Census. [1]Not yet available.

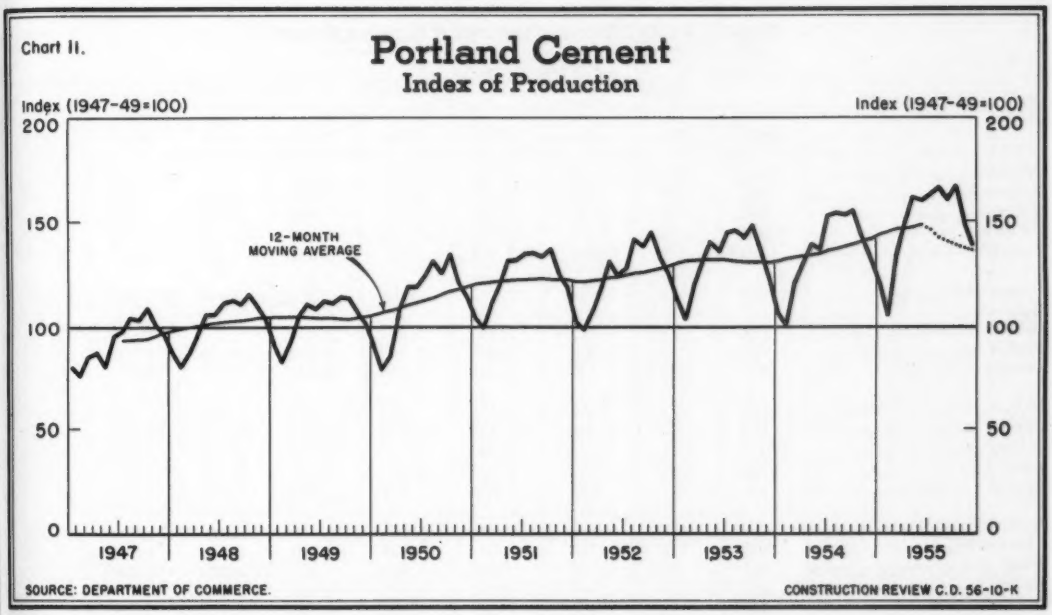


Table 30.--Portland Cement, and Asphalt and Gypsum Products: Production, Shipments, and Stocks

Period	Portland cement (Thousands of barrels) Production	Portland cement (Thousands of barrels) Shipments	Portland cement (Thousands of barrels) Stocks	Shipments (Thousands of squares) Asphalt prepared roofing	Asphalt siding	Asphalt insulated brick siding	Asphalt and tar saturated felts	Shipments (Million square feet) Gypsum board[1]	Gypsum lath[1]
1947-49 average	200,607	199,306	11,922	61,252	3,365	2,811	17,087	2,478	2,075
Year: 1953	264,022	260,889	19,231	56,703	1,557	2,794	25,778	3,757	2,435
1954	271,277	274,096	16,731	58,648	1,447	2,297	28,531	4,217	2,484
1955	296,829	295,265	17,536	62,930	1,293	2,193	34,609	(2)	(2)
12 months ending:									
August 1955	291,503	292,848	--	64,768	1,310	2,180	32,984		
September 1955	292,939	293,683	--	63,948	1,296	2,179	32,444	4,757	2,820
October 1955	294,976	295,190	--	63,808	1,302	2,183	32,632		
November 1955	296,044	294,409	--	63,317	1,305	2,197	33,747		
1954: December	22,290	16,347	16,731	3,094	86	97	1,852	1,144	642
1955: January	20,223	13,520	23,437	3,190	85	93	2,091		
February	17,611	14,031	27,087	3,264	79	108	2,711	1,181	683
March	22,340	22,941	26,516	5,533	125	161	3,758		
April	24,818	25,295	26,106	6,099	98	172	2,977		
May	27,031	29,172	23,672	5,972	91	227	2,568	1,200	724
June	26,762	31,260	18,855	6,950	109	233	3,647		
July	27,332	29,467	16,727	5,225	91	200	2,312		
August	27,861	31,883	12,731	7,183	124	253	3,238	1,232	771
September	26,958	29,867	9,779	6,242	139	255	2,496		
October	27,924	28,641	8,753	5,948	150	229	2,624		
November	24,894	21,985	11,663	4,617	128	169	3,483	(2)	(2)
December	23,075	17,203	17,536	2,707	74	93	2,704		
	Percent change								
December, 1954-55	+ 4	+ 5	- 5	-13	-14	- 4	+46	--	--
Year, 1954-55	+ 9	+ 8	--	+ 7	-11	- 5	+21	--	--

Source: Table compiled by Department of Commerce (BDSA) from data reported by the Department of Interior (Bureau of Mines), and the Bureau of the Census. [1] Data reported on quarterly basis. [2] Not yet available.

Table 31.--Portland Cement: Destination of Shipments, by State

(Thousands of barrels)

State	1955			Calendar year			12 months ending--		
	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	1952	1953	1954	Sept. 1955	Oct. 1955	Nov. 1955
Alabama	354	375	333	3,883	4,260	3,943	3,947	3,909	3,902
Arizona	201	197	174	2,119	2,433	2,215	2,330	2,351	2,351
Arkansas	162	160	145	1,940	1,762	1,894	2,652	2,673	2,583
California	2,944	2,638	2,412	25,367	27,737	28,528	31,969	31,889	31,875
Colorado	335	371	275	2,826	2,941	3,285	3,385	3,445	3,453
Connecticut	297	368	247	2,977	3,194	3,258	3,398	3,411	3,367
Delaware	111	106	83	861	902	910	1,038	1,052	1,072
District of Columbia	128	144	112	1,156	1,249	1,324	1,373	1,397	1,389
Florida	734	705	721	6,680	7,487	8,354	9,263	9,244	9,054
Georgia	417	492	444	4,161	4,644	4,441	4,906	4,975	5,075
Idaho	105	96	55	1,116	986	1,215	974	953	920
Illinois	1,544	1,521	1,224	13,327	13,439	14,973	14,574	14,578	14,595
Indiana	976	921	561	6,207	6,568	6,724	7,764	7,993	8,019
Iowa	797	705	316	4,890	4,941	5,863	6,006	5,995	5,899
Kansas	671	631	533	5,939	5,801	6,576	7,400	7,343	7,265
Kentucky	417	417	301	3,621	3,354	3,026	3,416	3,525	3,591
Louisiana	693	728	734	5,869	5,728	6,292	6,760	6,939	7,101
Maine	123	87	58	692	894	857	1,020	1,000	965
Maryland	451	570	397	4,363	4,676	4,447	4,696	4,817	4,842
Massachusetts	472	586	432	4,347	4,351	4,180	5,004	5,163	5,173
Michigan	1,636	1,479	996	11,255	12,716	13,076	14,166	14,220	13,967
Minnesota	665	633	285	4,748	4,968	5,500	5,879	5,873	5,816
Mississippi	151	171	144	1,705	1,696	1,732	1,949	1,977	1,948
Missouri	800	803	587	6,319	6,796	7,556	7,666	7,860	7,802
Montana	127	150	55	1,358	949	1,019	945	990	961
Nebraska	342	375	207	2,629	3,384	3,724	3,712	3,688	3,568
Nevada	61	61	49	625	618	842	765	757	744
New Hampshire	157	113	49	451	549	827	1,230	1,214	1,148
New Jersey	923	936	671	8,084	8,581	9,164	9,338	9,352	9,290
New Mexico	153	151	167	1,645	1,860	2,111	2,164	2,100	2,043
New York	2,188	2,021	1,190	16,905	19,134	20,290	19,908	19,730	19,452
North Carolina	372	383	358	3,896	3,715	4,009	4,231	4,277	4,347
North Dakota	143	155	30	1,062	1,148	1,161	1,122	1,163	1,154
Ohio	1,677	1,617	1,276	13,021	14,286	16,003	17,419	17,213	17,153
Oklahoma	396	411	424	4,677	4,158	4,364	4,612	4,704	4,740
Oregon	258	201	131	2,902	2,445	2,081	2,377	2,385	2,354
Pennsylvania	1,907	1,634	1,126	15,055	15,234	15,108	16,078	16,138	16,085
Rhode Island	89	82	54	1,015	857	685	821	837	823
South Carolina	244	231	211	2,961	2,217	1,993	2,248	2,312	2,380
South Dakota	203	173	55	1,113	1,246	1,116	1,233	1,251	1,218
Tennessee	530	533	465	4,702	4,856	4,683	4,812	4,867	4,961
Texas	1,712	1,821	1,649	17,249	16,158	19,081	20,344	20,624	20,715
Utah	225	216	133	1,343	1,343	1,508	1,760	1,820	1,816
Vermont	36	36	15	321	300	242	291	298	292
Virginia	448	495	426	4,652	4,701	4,474	4,585	4,662	4,743
Washington	625	554	255	4,954	5,413	5,684	6,073	6,091	5,835
West Virginia	421	211	157	1,791	1,921	2,379	2,032	2,062	2,022
Wisconsin	524	663	510	5,673	6,127	5,840	5,933	5,858	5,977
Wyoming	72	68	41	561	538	585	582	588	577

Source: Table compiled by Department of Commerce from data reported by Department of Interior (Bureau of Mines).

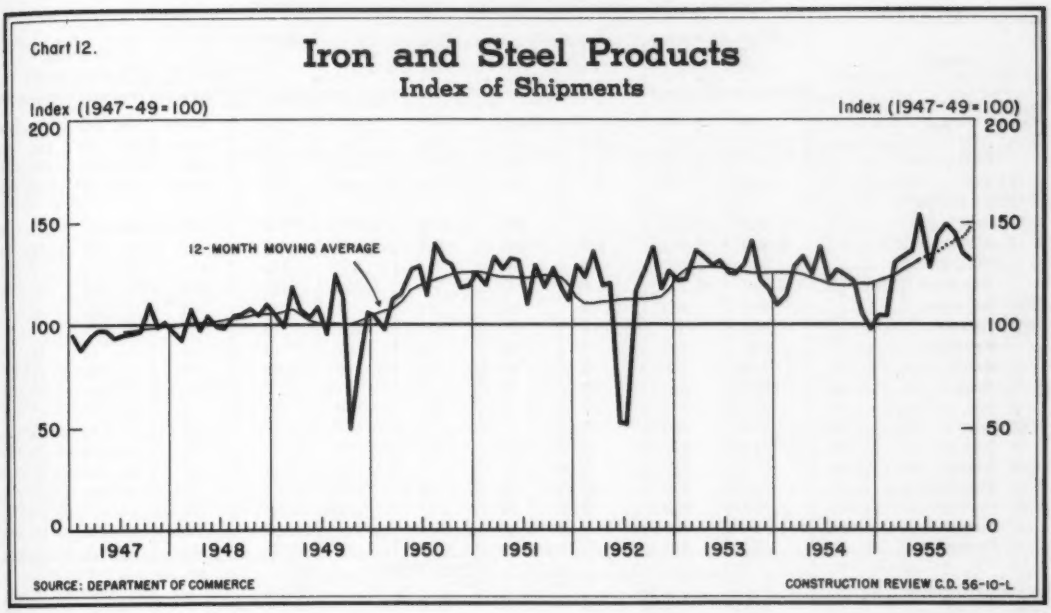


Table 32.--Iron and Steel Products: Shipments, Bookings, and Backlog

(Thousands of tons)

Period	Shipments									Shipments	Bookings	Backlog [1]
	Line pipe	Concrete reinforcing bars	Galvanized sheets	Nails	Piling	Rails	Cast-iron pipe: Pressure	Cast-iron pipe: Soil	Rigid steel conduit	Fabricated structural steel		
1947-49 average	1,975	1,523	1,669	797	309	2,167	1,075	604	226	2,248	2,105	--
Year: 1953	3,507	1,849	2,291	529	343	1,954	1,286	677	221	3,117	2,787	1,010
1954	2,595	1,751	2,363	567	388	1,196	1,376	744	228	3,136	2,510	743
1955	3,083	2,163	2,865	651	391	1,233	1,682	869	(2)	2,981	3,693	1,029
12 months ending:												
August 1955	2,637	1,949	2,640	644	370	1,091	1,557	856	266	2,878	3,144	--
September 1955	2,707	1,984	2,699	647	377	1,123	1,597	868	269	2,902	3,275	--
October 1955	2,769	2,036	2,750	651	380	1,150	1,628	876	273	2,928	3,372	--
November 1955	2,897	2,092	2,809	648	383	1,175	1,659	878	274	2,957	3,522	--
1954: December	92	123	206	32	28	40	111	55	20	224	197	743
1955: January	119	116	211	49	21	97	101	61	19	226	241	781
February	135	128	199	51	27	103	95	67	20	213	234	802
March	254	161	239	61	29	122	130	83	23	228	285	877
April	253	184	239	62	27	118	146	76	19	242	270	881
May	265	215	236	63	40	121	169	75	21	223	303	938
June	348	209	247	74	39	127	147	84	23	282	318	991
July	296	177	205	49	32	104	129	67	35	219	369	1,009
August	315	197	242	56	32	88	156	85	21	268	312	1,060
September	295	186	269	58	33	95	165	82	25	289	339	1,049
October	265	202	260	53	41	86	161	76	26	284	309	1,068
November	260	194	256	40	34	74	149	67	24	259	345	1,088
December	278	194	262	35	36	98	134	46	(2)	248	368	1,029
	Percent change											
December, 1954-55	+202	+58	+27	+10	+29	+145	+21	-16	--	+11	+87	+38
Year, 1954-55	+19	+24	+21	+15	+ 1	+31	+22	+17	--	- 5	+47	--

Source: Table compiled by the Department of Commerce (BDSA) from data reported by the American Iron and Steel Institute, the National Electric Manufacturers Association, the American Institute of Steel Construction, and the Bureau of the Census. [1] Scheduled for fabrication in the next 4 months. [2] Not yet available.

Table 33.--Clay Construction Products: Production and Shipments

Period	Brick, common and face (*Million brick*)		Structural clay tile (*Thousand tons*)		Vitrified clay sewer pipe (*Thousand tons*)		Hollow facing tile (*Million brick equivalent*)		Glazed & unglazed floor & wall tile (*Thousand square feet*)	
	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments
1947-49 average	5,504	5,324	1,286	1,231	1,451	1,375	357	341	104,800	101,088
Year: 1953	5,875	5,771	990	922	1,655	1,563	456	444	137,429	134,375
1954	6,153	6,119	953	895	1,702	1,636	457	444	141,066	139,515
1955	7,148	7,010	839	834	1,926	1,880	493	482	190,672	190,509
12 months ending:										
August 1955	6,828	6,806	870	854	1,838	1,818	490	480	168,967	170,453
September 1955	6,928	6,895	858	851	1,865	1,848	493	482	173,535	174,912
October 1955	7,024	6,962	849	846	1,889	1,867	494	481	178,694	179,557
November 1955	7,100	6,994	839	838	1,914	1,884	492	480	183,885	183,878
1954: December	519	464	69	64	151	122	42	38	12,880	12,358
1955: January	468	412	66	64	132	101	42	37	13,973	13,258
February	446	405	65	60	134	109	38	36	13,111	12,528
March	563	568	72	69	163	149	44	44	15,338	15,807
April	569	605	65	70	143	147	37	38	14,550	14,820
May	614	652	68	72	157	178	42	42	15,077	15,491
June	654	684	77	77	179	197	43	45	15,936	16,936
July	623	627	73	70	152	171	41	40	14,414	15,036
August	677	680	73	81	173	193	46	46	16,504	16,969
September	676	678	69	74	183	188	41	40	16,967	17,215
October	657	638	72	74	172	172	38	37	17,467	16,917
November	633	581	70	64	174	157	38	37	17,668	16,543
December	567	480	69	60	163	118	43	40	19,667	18,989
	Percent change									
December, 1954-55	+ 9	+ 4	+ 1	- 7	+ 7	- 3	+ 3	+ 5	+53	+54
Year, 1954-55	+16	+15	-12	- 7	+15	+ 8	+ 8	+ 9	+35	+37

Source: Table compiled by Department of Commerce (BDSA) from data reported by the Bureau of the Census.

Table 34.--Clay Construction Products: Production and Shipments, by Census Region [1]

Census region	PRODUCTION				SHIPMENTS			
	December 1955		Year 1955		December 1955		Year 1955	
	Quantity	Percent change from Dec. 1954	Quantity	Percent change, 1954-55	Quantity	Percent change from Dec. 1954	Quantity	Percent change, 1954-55
	Brick, common and face (*thousands*)							
U. S. TOTAL	**566,810**	**+ 9**	**7,146,821**	**+16**	**480,413**	**+ 4**	**7,012,251**	**+15**
New England	10,257	+12	128,022	+ 8	8,538	-17	121,052	+ 1
Middle Atlantic	95,381	+ 6	1,115,575	+ 3	81,961	+ 4	1,134,107	+ 7
East North Central	130,594	+ 1	1,629,172	+11	109,395	+ 5	1,579,570	+ 8
West North Central	31,714	+21	381,116	+27	20,154	-11	351,173	+21
South Atlantic	135,670	+14	1,732,740	+19	113,506	+10	1,753,123	+22
East South Central	52,396	+13	668,743	+21	47,277	+12	668,005	+20
West South Central	73,056	+21	868,905	+29	59,841	(2)	804,572	+20
Mountain	21,551	+15	254,380	+25	19,836	+13	236,842	+15
Pacific	16,191	-21	368,168	+23	19,905	-19	364,167	+18
	Structural clay tile (*tons*)							
U. S. TOTAL	**69,078**	**+ 1**	**839,945**	**-12**	**59,681**	**- 7**	**834,627**	**- 7**
Middle Atlantic	8,832	+27	84,170	+ 1	6,052	-20	85,812	+ 2
East North Central	8,926	+11	132,015	+ 1	7,213	-23	137,856	+ 8
West North Central	9,708	-35	110,694	-36	7,087	-36	112,247	-29
South Atlantic	10,089	-18	150,587	-15	10,282	-10	160,761	- 3
East South Central	4,202	-35	64,140	-33	3,888	-27	65,501	-21
West South Central	24,846	+37	274,736	+ 6	23,330	+35	249,852	+ 1
Mountain & Pacific	2,475	+37	23,603	-29	1,829	-22	22,597	-27
	Vitrified clay sewer pipe (*tons*)							
U. S. TOTAL	**163,161**	**+ 8**	**1,925,352**	**+13**	**117,863**	**- 3**	**1,874,383**	**+15**
Middle Atlantic	18,910	+ 1	212,701	+ 7	10,049	+ 7	188,740	+15
East North Central	63,767	+15	784,582	+17	41,654	- 1	768,414	+18
West North Central	16,379	- 1	197,993	+ 5	13,202	+ 4	196,415	+ 4
South Atlantic	13,706	+13	156,559	+28	13,177	+23	157,698	+31
E. & W. South Central	24,271	+21	254,870	+ 9	18,875	+ 6	251,324	+13
Mountain	3,417	-21	45,388	- 1	3,161	- 6	42,990	- 3
Pacific	22,711	- 8	273,259	+12	17,745	-31	268,802	+11

Source: Table compiled by Department of Commerce (BDSA) from data reported by the Bureau of the Census. [1] Composition of regions, and nonfarm population distribution by region, are shown below table 2. [2] Change of less than one-half of 1 percent.

Table 35.--Heating and Plumbing Equipment: Shipments and Stocks

Period	Gas water heaters (Thousands of units)		C. I. convectors and radiators (Thousand square feet)		Warm air furnaces (Thousands of units)		Floor and wall furnaces (Thousands of units)		Residential oil burners [1] (Thousands of units)
	Shipments	Stocks	Shipments	Stocks	Shipments	Stocks	Shipments	Stocks	Shipments
1947-49 average	1,818	67	50,980	4,377	794	69	552	44	541
Year: 1953	2,274	128	31,667	4,650	997	148	552	108	541
1954	2,236	103	28,386	5,434	1,132	130	550	74	494
1955	2,598	108	(2)	(2)	1,348	191	562	70	537
12 months ending:									
August 1955	2,533	--	28,746	--	1,311	--	581	--	529
September 1955	2,556	--	28,855	--	1,324	--	578	--	549
October 1955	2,577	--	28,616	--	1,336	--	574	--	542
November 1955	2,586	--	28,695	--	1,349	--	568	--	539
1954: December	163	103	1,956	5,434	81	130	45	74	29
1955: January	200	97	1,675	5,876	85	137	39	76	39
February	215	94	1,970	6,106	80	145	38	81	39
March	249	103	2,419	6,416	87	176	41	81	39
April	232	94	2,035	6,991	92	189	40	82	39
May	217	123	1,732	7,898	100	200	39	83	40
June	215	111	2,208	7,903	117	213	39	85	41
July	207	91	1,865	7,520	108	194	38	87	44
August	260	69	3,615	6,378	164	187	57	85	60
September	224	93	3,326	5,845	164	187	65	71	68
October	219	91	3,115	5,234	150	172	72	61	62
November	185	102	2,779	4,666	121	177	54	61	39
December	175	108	(2)	(2)	80	191	39	70	27
	Percent change								
December, 1954-55	+ 7	+ 5	--	--	- 1	+47	-15	- 6	- 7
Year, 1954-55	+16	--	--	--	+19	--	+ 1	--	+ 8

Source: Table compiled by Department of Commerce (BDSA) from data reported by the Bureau of the Census. [1] Sold separately. [2] Not yet available.

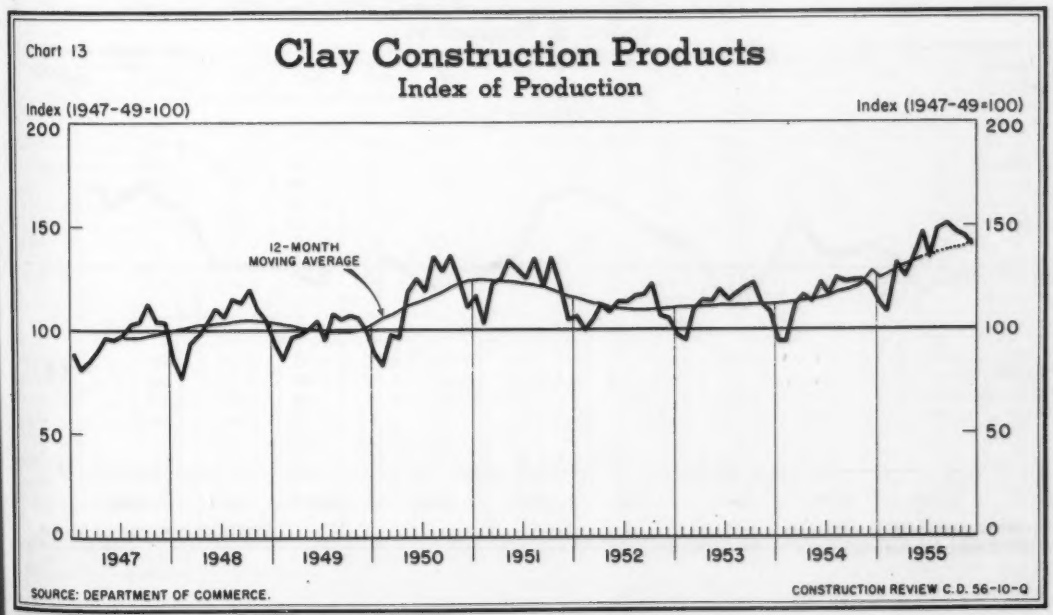


Table 36.--Plumbing Fixtures: Production, Shipments, and Stocks

Type of fixture	Number of fixtures					Percent change				
	4th quarter 1955			Year 1955		4th quarter 1954-55			Year, 1954-55	
	Production	Shipments	Stocks[1]	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments	Stocks[1]	Production	Shipments
Lavatories	1,156,906	974,411	482,706	4,106,784	3,924,453	+34	+12	+57	+34	+23
Vitreous china	592,756	537,082	199,312	2,125,514	2,080,387	+29	+19	+25	+37	+31
Cast-iron	471,350	357,302	236,734	1,667,593	1,540,111	+43	(2)	+112	+31	+15
Steel	92,800	80,027	46,659	313,677	303,955	+34	+19	+27	+29	+22
Water closets	1,220,433	1,150,988	222,980	4,587,178	4,514,985	+27	+21	+38	+38	+38
Syphon jet	148,678	138,366	50,839	533,126	526,346	+19	+12	+13	+26	+16
Washdown	518,706	490,265	85,832	2,008,179	1,977,295	+27	+22	+37	+38	+32
Reverse trap	553,049	522,357	86,309	2,045,873	2,011,344	+29	+23	+62	+41	+32
Flush tanks, vitreous china	1,030,095	990,917	237,462	4,032,270	3,944,497	+25	+20	+48	+39	+31
Urinals, vitreous china	45,193	44,086	14,918	159,276	156,757	+27	+27	+16	+32	+20
Kitchen sinks	604,920	535,825	420,968	2,538,791	2,427,262	- 1	- 8	+86	+19	+11
Cast-iron	294,945	229,956	186,989	1,143,638	1,060,086	+20	- 9	+80	+20	+ 5
Steel	309,055	305,014	233,118	1,391,989	1,363,971	-14	- 8	+92	+19	+17
Other metals and glazed earthenware[3]	920	855	861	3,164	3,205	- 9	-18	-10	-23	-27
Wash sinks	4,654	5,210	3,806	18,444	18,895	(2)	+28	-12	+ 8	+10
Service sinks	22,882	22,578	15,392	97,544	95,760	+ 8	+10	+13	+25	+21
Sink and laundry tray comb.	42,761	36,073	32,036	162,683	148,592	+ 8	-11	+126	+12	- 4
Laundry trays	32,701	26,800	15,436	142,099	134,819	+32	- 6	+26	+33	+24
Bathtubs	633,360	488,645	267,179	2,454,000	2,326,521	+ 7	-10	+92	+21	+12
Cast-iron	469,984	348,120	205,370	1,793,775	1,678,467	+10	-13	+28	+24	+11
Steel	163,376	140,525	61,809	660,225	648,054	+ 1	- 3	+25	+13	+15
Shower stalls, including receptors	39,071	34,727	13,343	197,909	196,980	- 2	- 6	+ 6	+ 4	+ 8

Source: Department of Commerce. [1] At end of period. [2] Change of less than one-half of 1 percent. [3] Includes vitreous china.

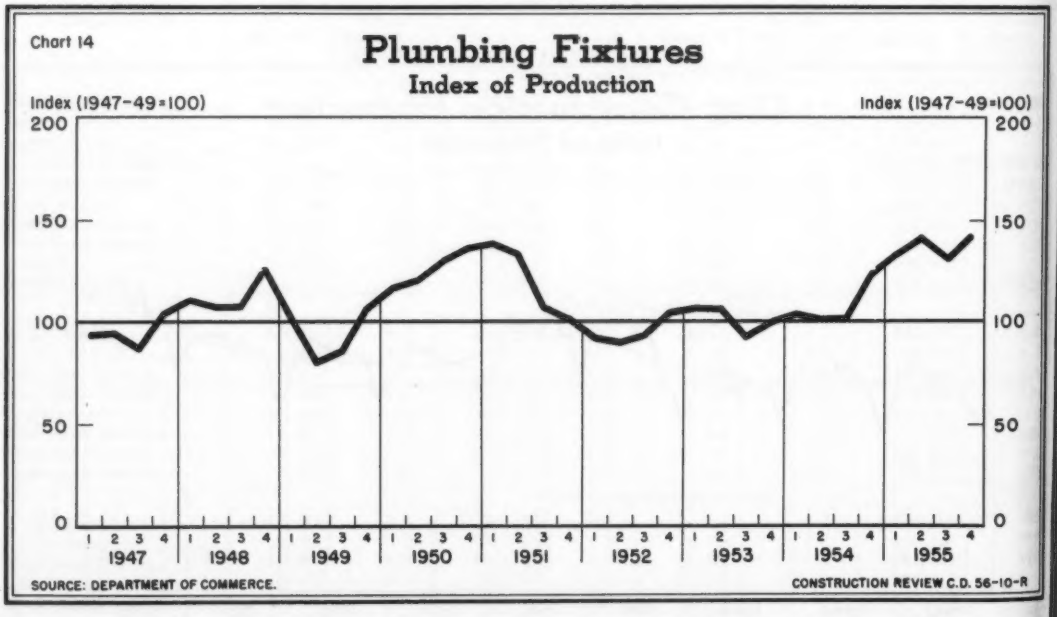


Table 37.--Contract Construction: Employment by Type of Contractor

Period	All contractors	Building contractors							Nonbuilding contractors		
		All building contractors	General contractors	Special trades contractors					All nonbuilding	Highway and street	Other nonbuilding
				All special trades	Plumbing and heating	Painting and decorating	Electrical work	Other trades			
	NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES *(in thousands)*										
Year: 1948	2,169.0	1,753.0	807.0	946.0	238.2	124.9	123.2	459.8	416.0	172.1	243.8
1949	2,165.0	1,736.0	779.0	957.0	241.7	123.4	122.1	469.5	428.0	178.1	250.3
1950	2,333.0	1,885.0	844.0	1,041.0	263.1	130.8	123.4	524.0	448.0	183.0	265.2
1951	2,603.0	2,109.0	957.6	1,151.7	286.9	155.7	140.5	568.7	493.0	201.3	291.9
1952	2,634.0	2,119.0	948.3	1,170.8	287.7	156.5	155.7	570.9	514.0	209.4	305.0
1953	2,622.0	2,109.0	934.0	1,175.1	288.9	148.1	159.7	578.4	513.0	214.9	297.8
1954	2,527.0	2,021.0	848.8	1,172.7	283.4	141.4	156.5	591.5	506.0	217.4	288.2
1955	2,506.0	2,008.0	791.0	1,217.0	281.8	145.7	148.3	641.2	498.0	222.8	274.8
1954: Dec.	2,426.0	1,975.0	801.9	1,173.4	283.1	135.5	153.7	601.1	451.0	186.0	265.2
1955: Jan.	2,237.0	1,839.0	733.3	1,106.1	270.6	121.6	148.5	565.4	398.0	152.6	244.9
Feb.	2,169.0	1,780.0	694.6	1,085.6	264.7	121.7	144.6	554.6	389.0	147.4	241.2
Mar.	2,255.0	1,844.0	723.9	1,119.9	266.3	129.2	143.6	580.8	411.0	161.9	249.0
Apr.	2,399.0	1,935.0	759.8	1,174.8	272.5	140.2	143.8	618.3	464.0	196.4	267.3
May	2,526.0	2,013.0	789.9	1,222.8	279.3	147.8	145.6	650.1	513.0	234.7	278.6
June	2,615.0	2,067.0	819.7	1,247.2	284.0	153.5	148.5	661.2	548.0	262.3	286.1
July	2,701.0	2,134.0	855.5	1,278.8	289.9	161.5	150.1	677.3	567.0	272.3	295.1
Aug.	2,746.0	2,170.0	868.2	1,301.6	297.3	164.1	150.4	689.8	576.0	277.9	298.2
Sept.	2,748.0	2,164.0	851.4	1,312.3	300.0	161.1	152.3	698.9	584.0	279.5	304.0
Oct.	2,685.0	2,120.0	829.2	1,291.0	295.3	157.3	152.9	685.5	565.0	266.2	298.8
Nov.	2,580.0	2,063.0	808.4	1,254.1	285.2	151.8	151.4	665.7	517.0	235.7	280.8
Dec.	2,407.0	1,966.0	757.9	1,208.4	276.0	138.1	148.1	646.2	441.0	187.2	253.3
	Percent change										
Nov.-Dec. 1955	-6.7	-4.7	-6.2	-3.6	-3.2	-9.0	-2.2	-2.9	-14.7	-20.6	-9.8
Dec., 1954-55	- .8	- .5	-5.5	+3.0	-2.5	+1.9	-3.6	+7.5	- 2.2	+ .6	-4.5

Source: Department of Labor.

Table 38.--Contract Construction: Indexes of Employment (Seasonally Adjusted), and Indexes of Weekly Man-Hours

(1947-49 = 100)

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual average
	INDEXES OF EMPLOYMENT *(seasonally adjusted)* [1]												
1948	100.8	95.8	98.2	100.1	101.6	103.9	104.6	105.2	105.6	106.0	106.9	107.0	103.1
1949	105.7	103.2	102.0	101.2	101.0	101.3	102.6	103.5	104.5	104.2	104.1	101.8	102.9
1950	100.8	99.9	100.1	103.3	106.3	111.1	114.4	116.5	117.6	119.0	119.7	117.5	110.9
1951	120.1	119.9	122.2	123.3	123.4	124.3	125.2	125.6	125.1	126.2	123.9	124.6	123.8
1952	123.6	124.8	123.1	123.0	123.5	125.8	126.4	127.1	127.5	125.9	126.0	125.2	125.2
1953	125.7	126.8	124.9	124.1	124.1	123.4	124.0	123.3	124.3	125.1	124.6	124.8	124.6
1954	120.3	122.7	122.4	121.5	121.4	120.1	120.3	119.2	118.3	117.9	119.2	118.3	120.0
1955	118.1	116.4	118.0	118.9	120.6	119.4	121.0	119.7	120.5	119.3	118.4	117.4	119.0
	INDEXES OF WEEKLY MAN-HOURS												
1948	89.6	81.3	86.7	95.0	102.2	111.9	115.1	117.3	116.2	113.3	106.6	105.4	103.4
1949	94.2	88.9	89.2	95.0	103.1	106.8	110.5	114.2	111.5	111.4	104.4	94.9	102.0
1950	84.6	79.5	83.7	95.8	106.1	116.7	122.1	129.5	126.1	128.9	123.9	112.7	109.1
1951	106.4	99.3	105.4	116.9	126.4	131.8	137.7	141.1	138.5	139.8	124.2	121.6	124.1
1952	111.1	112.3	108.3	117.5	125.4	136.8	138.9	143.2	144.0	139.9	128.2	123.9	127.5
1953	109.1	108.7	109.1	115.8	122.6	130.4	132.0	137.2	131.7	136.7	126.7	117.2	123.1
1954	95.5	102.8	106.4	112.1	118.2	124.6	127.5	129.8	123.8	123.5	118.2	108.9	115.9
1955	96.0	92.4	100.6	106.1	117.2	122.3	128.7	129.3	132.3	125.1	113.4	107.7	114.3

Source: Department of Labor. Federal Reserve Board.

[1] Indexes for months before January 1953 are based on seasonally adjusted employment data derived by the

Table 39.--Contract Construction: Employment, by State

State	Number of employees (in thousands)											Percent change, Dec. 1954-55
	1955								1952	1953	1954	
	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Dec.	Dec.	Dec.	
Alabama	33.8	34.7	35.4	35.4	34.4	34.4	33.9	33.2	32.5	29.9	30.4	+9
Arizona	19.2	19.0	19.1	17.9	19.8	20.3	19.9	19.3	17.0	17.9	19.5	-1
Arkansas	15.7	16.2	17.0	17.3	16.7	16.5	16.1	15.3	20.5	16.8	14.4	+6
California	268.3	277.7	283.0	291.4	290.2	281.8	267.5	257.7	258.5	248.1	258.1	(1)
Colorado	30.3	32.1	30.8	30.4	30.4	29.7	28.8	28.1	26.8	23.5	26.0	+8
Connecticut [2]	45.1	47.7	49.0	48.9	49.5	49.2	47.5	46.6	38.9	41.2	40.9	+14
Delaware [3]	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
District of Columbia	17.8	18.2	18.0	18.7	19.2	18.9	19.1	18.5	18.2	16.9	16.2	+14
Florida	88.5	90.8	94.2	97.2	94.8	93.1	93.4	92.0	82.8	88.0	91.1	+1
Georgia	51.4	53.7	53.8	54.7	52.5	52.0	51.1	49.2	45.8	48.0	46.3	+6
Idaho	8.5	10.0	10.1	10.5	10.1	9.0	8.6	8.0	8.7	6.7	7.6	+5
Illinois	167.7	171.8	175.2	176.9	174.6	173.7	168.4	158.3	158.0	151.3	159.8	-1
Indiana	65.3	70.3	74.2	77.0	77.0	76.6	72.1	64.5	58.9	55.0	57.1	+13
Iowa	32.5	36.5	36.9	36.6	36.2	33.9	31.9	27.0	27.3	27.7	29.6	-9
Kansas	36.0	38.2	40.0	41.4	39.9	39.6	38.5	34.0	33.7	33.2	33.2	+2
Kentucky [3]	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Louisiana	45.8	47.2	47.4	47.8	47.3	47.8	47.6	48.0	53.6	54.8	49.4	-3
Maine	14.6	15.3	15.8	15.6	14.6	14.6	13.4	10.6	11.0	12.9	12.7	-17
Maryland	62.4	63.4	66.0	66.8	69.6	70.9	70.3	67.6	59.5	59.5	56.3	+20
Massachusetts	79.4	83.6	86.7	87.1	91.4	89.0	88.5	80.4	67.8	70.8	73.8	+9
Michigan	106.2	108.1	106.7	112.4	116.3	115.0	110.8	102.8	102.2	110.1	111.4	-8
Minnesota	58.6	65.3	67.9	71.6	70.7	69.1	61.0	51.8	42.5	43.2	50.3	+3
Mississippi	18.0	18.0	18.0	18.4	18.2	17.8	17.6	16.9	17.9	17.1	15.5	+9
Missouri	74.7	80.2	85.9	84.8	81.9	78.6	75.3	68.9	57.7	61.2	65.0	+6
Montana	10.1	10.7	11.7	12.4	12.5	11.3	10.0	8.7	8.5	9.2	8.5	+2
Nebraska	24.7	26.0	28.1	28.5	28.5	27.5	26.4	21.8	15.9	17.7	19.9	+10
Nevada	9.6	9.7	10.4	10.6	10.3	9.6	9.1	8.5	6.8	7.7	9.3	-9
New Hampshire	9.7	10.4	10.7	10.4	10.1	10.1	9.9	8.7	6.4	7.4	9.0	-3
New Jersey	99.0	101.4	105.1	106.7	107.7	110.1	107.2	101.0	94.7	96.5	92.2	+10
New Mexico	15.5	16.1	16.0	16.0	15.8	15.0	15.0	14.3	12.7	14.2	14.3	0
New York	232.9	240.0	248.0	249.9	252.7	250.6	246.0	232.4	213.3	226.0	220.8	+5
North Carolina	52.6	54.4	53.8	53.4	52.9	51.9	51.5	49.2	52.0	48.8	47.5	+4
North Dakota	9.5	10.2	10.7	11.1	10.7	9.5	8.1	5.9	6.3	7.3	7.1	-17
Ohio	145.3	154.3	163.5	167.8	165.3	163.9	156.9	145.2	131.9	150.3	143.4	+1
Oklahoma	32.1	33.6	34.8	34.3	33.5	31.7	30.5	29.7	33.6	29.2	29.6	(1)
Oregon	23.8	23.8	27.5	29.8	28.8	27.2	23.1	23.1	22.7	20.3	21.0	+10
Pennsylvania	189.1	196.5	203.4	202.3	209.2	204.5	194.6	177.2	173.7	178.9	170.4	+4
Rhode Island	17.2	17.5	17.9	18.3	19.0	17.7	17.0	16.2	16.2	14.8	16.5	-2
South Carolina	31.0	32.1	32.2	32.2	30.9	29.2	29.0	27.3	57.2	41.2	27.8	-2
South Dakota	9.7	10.2	10.3	9.9	9.1	9.2	7.4	5.8	7.6	8.4	7.7	-25
Tennessee	54.5	55.4	55.4	55.2	54.6	53.7	51.8	48.5	49.3	51.9	56.4	-14
Texas	164.2	169.1	170.4	170.7	164.1	160.9	157.7	156.6	167.8	145.4	151.1	+4
Utah	15.1	16.7	17.2	17.0	17.0	16.2	16.2	14.7	11.0	9.7	12.2	+20
Vermont	4.5	5.0	5.4	5.4	5.3	5.1	5.0	4.6	3.5	4.6	4.0	+15
Virginia [4]	63.2	64.5	65.6	66.0	65.6	65.6	64.5	61.3	57.5	55.2	54.8	+12
Washington	48.6	51.0	52.7	53.4	52.3	49.2	44.2	42.6	41.0	43.3	46.6	-9
West Virginia	17.2	19.5	21.2	23.6	22.8	21.9	21.0	20.3	19.5	21.5	14.7	+38
Wisconsin	56.2	60.4	63.5	65.7	66.4	65.8	62.2	57.8	50.3	49.4	52.2	+11
Wyoming	5.8	6.5	7.2	7.3	7.3	6.9	5.7	4.7	6.5	5.1	5.8	-19

Source: Department of Labor. [1] Change of less than one-half of 1 percent. [2] Includes a small number of employees in mining. [3] Not available. [4] Revised series; not strictly comparable with previously published data.

Table 40.--Contract Construction: Employment in Selected Areas

Area	Number of employees *(in thousands)*											Percent change, Dec. 1954-55
	1955								1952	1953	1954	
	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Dec.	Dec.	Dec.	
Albany-Schenectady-Troy, N.Y.	6.3	6.8	6.6	7.0	6.9	6.9	6.7	6.3	6.4	7.3	6.6	- 5
Albuquerque, N. Mex.	5.6	6.0	6.3	6.1	6.2	5.8	6.0	5.6	4.4	4.3	4.9	+14
Atlanta, Ga.	18.9	19.6	19.7	20.7	20.3	20.4	20.3	19.3	13.3	15.2	17.6	+10
Baltimore, Md.	38.0	38.1	39.7	40.7	42.8	43.8	43.4	42.6	35.9	38.4	35.1	+21
Baton Rouge, La.	5.6	5.8	5.7	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.4	5.6	(1)	(1)	5.6	0
Binghamton, N. Y.	3.1	3.2	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.0	2.9	2.3	2.6	2.8	2.6	-12
Birmingham, Ala.	10.8	11.6	12.1	12.1	11.9	11.8	11.5	11.1	10.1	10.1	9.4	+18
Boise, Idaho	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.4	1.7	1.5	1.5	- 7
Boston, Mass.	44.9	47.6	51.2	50.9	53.5	51.5	50.4	46.8	40.3	41.8	39.9	+17
Bridgeport, Conn.[2]	5.5	5.8	6.3	6.3	6.1	5.9	5.7	5.5	5.0	5.2	5.4	+ 2
Buffalo, N. Y.	17.5	18.5	19.8	19.4	20.3	19.2	18.9	17.2	17.7	18.4	17.0	+ 1
Casper, Wyo.	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.0	.9	.7	1.4	1.0	1.3	-46
Charleston, S. C.	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.8	2.8	3.0	3.1	2.9	3.8	3.7	2.4	+21
Charleston, W. Va.	4.1	4.4	4.5	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.3	3.9	5.2	4.8	3.4	+15
Charlotte, N. C.	5.5	5.6	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.0	4.9	6.2	6.3	5.4	- 9
Chattanooga, Tenn.	4.7	5.0	5.1	4.8	4.8	4.6	4.1	3.9	5.1	4.0	4.8	-19
Chicago, Ill.	110.9	113.1	115.5	117.3	117.0	116.3	114.0	108.8	102.2	104.1	104.0	+ 5
Denver, Colo.	19.4	20.4	19.8	19.8	19.8	19.3	18.7	18.1	16.9	15.0	16.5	+10
Des Moines, Iowa	6.0	6.6	6.5	6.7	6.6	6.4	5.8	5.5	3.9	4.3	5.3	+ 4
Detroit, Mich.	62.4	63.1	61.0	65.8	68.9	68.0	67.3	63.0	(1)	65.2	67.5	- 7
Duluth, Minn.	2.5	2.7	2.8	3.0	3.0	3.0	2.9	2.7	2.4	2.1	2.6	+ 4
Evansville, Ind.	3.6	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.2	2.7	3.1	3.2	0
Fargo, N. D.	1.7	2.1	2.2	2.5	2.3	2.3	2.1	1.7	(1)	1.3	1.7	0
Fort Wayne, Ind.	2.6	3.0	3.1	3.3	3.1	3.1	3.1	2.8	3.6	3.0	3.1	-10
Great Falls, Mont.	1.5	1.7	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.6	1.3	(1)	1.2	1.2	+ 8
Harrisburg, Pa.	7.8	8.4	8.4	7.9	8.2	8.0	8.2	7.4	7.0	6.0	7.2	+ 3
Hartford, Conn.[2]	9.2	9.5	9.7	9.8	9.7	9.7	9.6	9.2	9.1	9.1	9.3	- 1
Indianapolis, Ind.	9.5	10.3	10.4	11.1	11.2	11.0	10.5	9.9	12.0	10.1	8.4	+18
Jackson, Miss.*	4.8	5.1	5.1	5.0	5.2	4.9	4.7	4.6	(1)	(1)	(1)	--
Jacksonville, Fla.	9.1	8.5	9.1	9.2	9.1	9.1	9.2	9.2	9.0	9.7	9.9	- 7
Kansas City, Mo.	18.7	19.4	19.1	18.9	19.1	18.9	18.3	16.4	22.2	20.3	18.9	-13
Knoxville, Tenn.[3]	11.3	10.7	9.2	9.1	8.1	7.2	6.7	6.2	8.2	13.0	15.3	-59
Lewiston, Maine	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.0	1.2	1.2	0
Little Rock-N. Little Rock, Ark.	6.3	5.9	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.4	6.1	5.5	4.7	4.5	5.2	+ 6
Los Angeles, Calif.	126.2	128.6	130.4	133.4	133.4	124.6	115.3	112.4	116.8	122.4	123.0	- 9
Louisville, Ky.	13.8	14.2	15.0	16.2	15.2	14.6	13.7	(1)	(1)	(1)	13.7	--
Manchester, N. H.	2.1	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.1	1.9	1.3	1.6	1.9	0
Memphis, Tenn.	10.6	12.0	12.0	12.5	12.8	12.7	12.4	12.1	10.8	9.6	9.5	+27
Miami, Fla.	23.3	24.2	25.0	26.0	26.6	26.3	25.9	24.2	19.0	21.6	25.5	- 5
Milwaukee, Wis.	20.9	21.8	22.8	23.7	24.0	23.8	23.0	22.3	(1)	(1)	19.5	+14
Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minn.	35.2	37.9	38.9	40.4	40.6	38.9	33.9	30.4	25.2	26.6	28.5	+ 7
Mobile, Ala.	4.8	4.6	4.6	4.5	4.5	4.6	4.5	4.4	(1)	4.4	4.4	0
Nashville, Tenn.[4]	7.1	7.6	7.8	8.1	8.1	8.0	7.6	7.2	(1)	47.4	6.4	+13
Nassau-Suffolk Counties, N. Y.	29.4	30.2	30.1	30.2	30.0	28.6	27.1	26.4	(1)	27.7	27.3	- 3
Newark-Jersey City, N.J.	32.2	33.2	33.7	33.4	33.6	35.1	34.5	33.2	(1)	30.6	28.6	+16
New Bedford, Mass.	1.7	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.8	1.7	1.3	1.3	1.6	+ 6
New Britain, Conn.[2]	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	0
New Haven, Conn.[2]	6.1	6.3	6.5	6.7	6.5	6.4	6.2	5.8	5.6	5.6	5.9	- 2
New Orleans, La.	20.3	20.8	21.0	21.0	21.0	20.6	20.8	20.7	20.3	20.8	20.2	+ 2
New York City, N. Y.	107.0	109.4	110.7	111.5	114.0	111.2	110.5	111.7	101.2	104.7	99.7	+12
Norfolk-Portsmouth, Va.	11.4	12.0	12.2	12.5	12.4	12.2	11.9	11.1	10.6	11.6	11.0	+ 1
Oklahoma City, Okla.	10.8	11.3	11.2	11.2	10.7	10.4	10.2	9.8	9.3	8.3	9.4	+ 4
Omaha, Nebr.	7.6	6.8	7.9	8.1	8.0	7.9	7.9	7.1	6.9	8.5	7.3	- 3
Paterson, N. J.	21.4	21.6	22.8	23.4	23.4	23.0	22.6	20.8	(1)	(1)	20.9	(5)
Phoenix, Ariz.	10.4	10.0	10.2	9.2	10.4	10.9	10.6	10.5	8.2	8.6	10.8	- 3
Pittsburgh, Pa.	42.4	43.8	45.6	45.9	48.1	47.1	45.2	41.7	(1)	41.3	38.4	+ 9
Portland, Maine	3.3	3.2	4.0	3.8	3.6	3.7	3.5	3.2	2.4	3.2	3.8	-16
Portland, Oreg.	14.0	12.9	15.3	16.0	15.9	15.2	13.4	13.9	12.1	11.8	12.6	+10
Providence, R. I.	15.3	15.5	15.7	16.2	16.8	15.7	15.1	14.4	14.4	13.2	14.6	- 1
Racine, Wis.	1.9	2.1	2.0	2.2	2.1	2.2	2.2	1.9	(1)	(1)	1.8	+ 6
Reno, Nev.	2.3	2.2	2.4	2.5	2.4	2.3	2.2	2.2	1.5	1.7	2.0	+10
Richmond, Va.	9.9	10.1	10.4	10.5	10.5	10.7	10.4	10.1	10.5	10.2	9.2	+10

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 40.--Contract Construction: Employment in Selected Areas--Continued

Area	Number of employees *(in thousands)*											Percent change, Dec. 1954-55
	1955								1952	1953	1954	
	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Dec.	Dec.	Dec.	
Rochester, N. Y.	8.9	8.2	10.7	10.9	10.5	10.2	9.8	9.0	7.5	8.2	8.8	+ 2
St. Louis, Mo.	37.1	37.5	38.6	39.5	39.1	38.1	36.3	33.8	(1)	(1)	39.5	-14
Salt Lake City, Utah	9.1	9.9	10.4	10.5	10.7	10.5	8.9	8.6	6.3	5.9	7.7	+12
San Diego, Calif.	12.9	12.3	13.3	13.1	12.9	12.6	12.3	12.2	16.3	12.4	12.3	- 1
San Francisco-Oakland, Calif.	57.8	61.2	63.1	64.6	64.4	65.1	63.7	60.1	59.6	54.7	58.7	+ 2
San Jose, Calif.*	10.2	10.4	10.8	10.9	11.0	10.7	10.5	9.7	8.2	7.6	9.1	+ 7
Savannah, Ga.	3.7	3.8	3.4	3.2	2.8	2.7	2.6	2.5	4.4	3.8	2.7	- 7
Seattle, Wash.[3]	14.9	15.5	15.7	15.9	15.9	15.5	14.3	13.5	11.6	11.5	12.7	+ 6
Spokane, Wash.[3]	4.7	5.1	5.8	5.7	5.7	5.2	4.3	3.5	3.7	3.8	4.1	-15
Springfield-Holyoke, Mass.	4.9	5.4	5.9	6.3	6.5	6.3	6.5	5.7	4.6	4.1	5.0	+14
Stamford, Conn.[2]	3.8	4.0	4.0	4.1	4.0	4.0	3.9	3.8	3.0	3.2	3.6	+ 6
Syracuse, N. Y.	6.7	7.7	6.9	7.2	7.3	6.7	6.9	6.3	6.5	6.7	6.2	+ 2
Tacoma, Wash.	4.0	4.3	4.6	4.6	4.8	4.6	4.4	4.3	4.1	3.9	3.1	+39
Tampa-St. Petersburg, Fla.	12.9	13.0	13.3	13.4	13.3	13.5	13.6	13.9	13.2	12.4	13.2	+ 5
Topeka, Kans.	3.2	3.6	3.9	4.0	3.8	4.0	3.7	3.3	3.2	2.2	2.7	+22
Tucson, Ariz.	4.3	4.4	4.3	4.2	4.3	4.4	4.5	4.6	5.1	3.7	4.1	+12
Tulsa, Okla.	9.0	9.0	8.9	8.8	8.7	8.3	8.1	8.2	7.2	7.3	7.5	+ 9
Utica-Rome, N. Y.	1.9	2.1	2.2	2.2	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.1	2.6	3.0	2.3	- 9
Washington, D. C.	43.9	44.8	45.2	46.4	47.3	47.3	47.3	45.7	35.8	35.1	38.4	+19
Waterbury, Conn.[2]	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.3	3.0	2.4	2.3	2.1	2.0	1.9	2.0	+ 5
Westchester Co., N. Y.	15.7	16.5	16.9	16.4	16.5	16.9	16.8	15.3	(1)	(1)	15.0	+ 2
Wheeling-Steubenville, W. Va.	3.9	4.3	4.7	5.0	4.7	4.4	4.4	4.5	3.7	3.2	3.4	+32
Wichita, Kans.	8.1	8.4	8.6	8.7	8.6	8.2	7.9	7.0	6.0	6.2	7.6	- 8
Worcester, Mass.	3.0	3.1	2.9	3.1	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.2	3.9	3.6	3.1	+ 3

Source: Department of Labor. *Shown for the first time in this issue. This table is expanded to include additional areas as data become available. [1] Not available. [2] Includes a small number of employees in mining. [3] Revised series; not strictly comparable with previously published data. [4] Data for this area have been revised from January 1954 forward to exclude the small number of employees in mining and to cover contract construction employment only; therefore, figures shown here are not strictly comparable with statistics shown in previous issues, or with figures shown for any month prior to 1954. [5] Change of less than one-half of 1 percent.

Chart 15.

Hours and Earnings of Workers
In Contract Construction

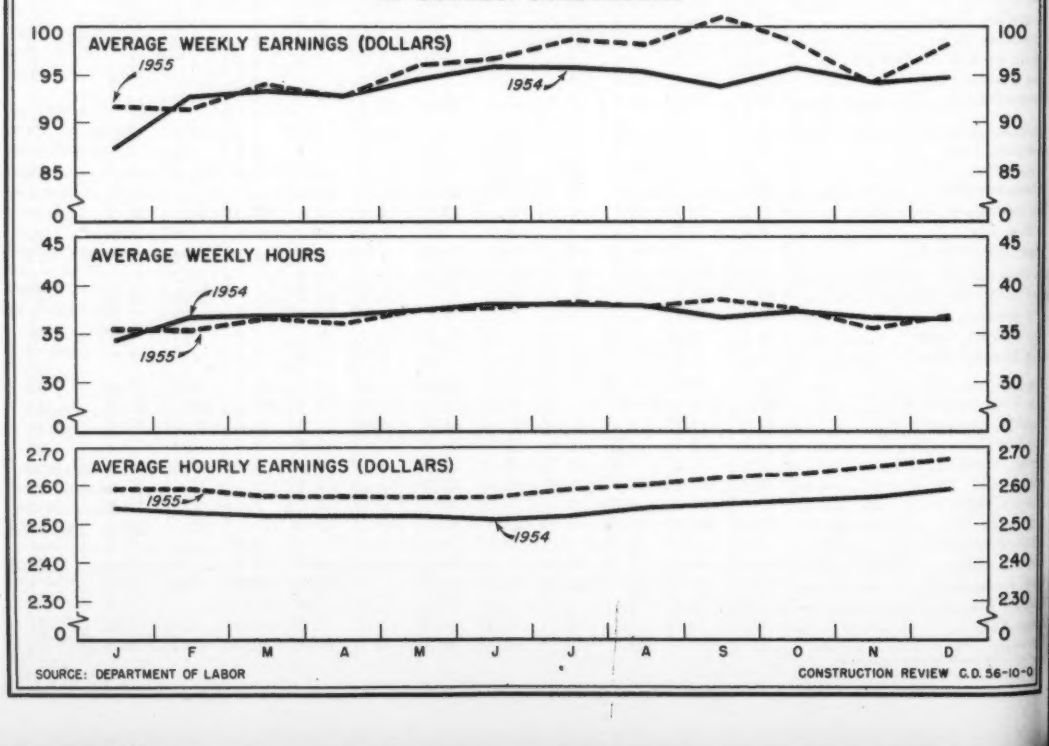


Table 41.--Contract Construction: Hours and Gross Earnings of Construction Workers

Period	All construction	Building construction							Nonbuilding construction		
		All building contractors	General contractors	Special trades contractors					All nonbuilding	Highway and street	Other nonbuilding
				All special trades	Plumbing and heating	Painting and decorating	Electrical work	Other trades			
AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS											
Year: 1953	$91.61	$91.76	$87.75	$94.79	$98.30	$87.10	$111.61	$91.04	$90.27	$85.28	$93.85
1954	93.98	94.12	89.41	98.01	102.71	90.39	112.71	93.19	92.86	86.88	97.36
1955	95.94	96.39	90.22	100.46	106.68	94.38	116.52	96.21	94.87	91.05	98.11
1954: December	94.28	95.40	90.83	98.28	107.20	91.12	113.30	91.77	89.47	80.51	96.08
1955: January	91.69	93.02	88.55	96.10	105.64	86.72	113.00	88.78	85.01	76.70	90.16
February	91.43	91.96	85.59	95.55	103.40	90.05	111.25	89.24	88.31	78.79	94.11
March	94.06	94.42	89.14	97.92	103.40	92.38	113.10	93.37	91.48	83.21	97.22
April	92.52	93.10	87.40	97.10	103.22	90.25	112.81	92.92	89.39	81.92	95.37
May	96.12	96.52	90.27	100.74	105.26	94.87	114.17	97.55	94.07	90.03	97.86
June	96.89	96.89	90.14	101.65	105.64	95.39	115.35	98.36	96.41	93.93	98.55
July	98.94	98.95	92.00	103.60	108.39	97.02	118.31	100.64	99.36	97.22	101.18
August	98.02	97.99	92.23	102.03	107.34	96.72	118.60	97.73	99.01	96.75	101.15
September	100.87	100.61	93.61	104.90	109.80	99.25	120.90	101.28	102.29	102.13	102.75
October	98.36	98.01	91.55	102.48	108.96	97.30	121.30	97.54	99.36	96.90	101.40
November	94.08	94.04	88.24	98.28	105.28	91.58	117.43	92.89	92.64	89.21	95.76
December	98.26	98.83	92.36	102.93	110.09	96.81	122.31	97.78	94.47	87.47	99.45
AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS											
Year: 1953	37.7	37.0	37.5	36.6	38.1	34.7	39.3	35.7	40.3	41.2	39.6
1954	37.0	36.2	36.2	36.3	37.9	34.5	38.6	35.3	40.2	40.6	39.9
1955	36.9	36.1	35.8	36.4	38.1	34.7	39.1	35.5	40.2	41.2	39.4
1954: December	36.4	36.0	35.9	36.0	38.7	34.0	38.8	34.5	38.4	37.8	38.9
1955: January	35.4	35.1	35.0	35.2	38.0	32.6	38.7	33.5	36.8	36.7	36.8
February	35.3	34.7	34.1	35.0	37.6	33.6	38.1	33.3	37.9	37.7	38.1
March	36.6	35.9	35.8	36.0	37.6	34.6	38.6	35.1	39.6	40.2	39.2
April	36.0	35.4	35.1	35.7	37.4	33.8	38.5	34.8	38.2	38.1	38.3
May	37.4	36.7	36.4	36.9	38.0	35.4	38.7	36.4	40.2	41.3	39.3
June	37.7	36.7	36.2	37.1	38.0	35.2	39.1	36.7	41.2	42.5	39.9
July	38.2	37.2	36.8	37.4	38.3	35.8	39.7	37.0	42.1	43.4	40.8
August	37.7	36.7	36.6	36.7	38.2	35.3	39.8	35.8	41.6	43.0	40.3
September	38.5	37.4	37.0	37.6	38.8	35.7	39.9	37.1	42.8	44.6	41.1
October	37.4	36.3	35.9	36.6	38.5	35.0	39.9	35.6	41.4	42.5	40.4
November	35.5	34.7	34.2	35.1	37.2	33.3	38.5	33.9	38.6	39.3	38.0
December	36.8	36.2	35.8	36.5	38.9	34.7	40.1	35.3	39.2	39.4	39.0
AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS											
Year: 1953	$2.43	$2.48	$2.34	$2.59	$2.58	$2.51	$2.84	$2.55	$2.24	$2.07	$2.37
1954	2.54	2.60	2.47	2.70	2.71	2.62	2.92	2.64	2.31	2.14	2.44
1955	2.60	2.67	2.52	2.76	2.80	2.72	2.98	2.71	2.36	2.21	2.49
1954: December	2.59	2.65	2.53	2.73	2.77	2.68	2.92	2.66	2.33	2.13	2.47
1955: January	2.59	2.65	2.53	2.73	2.78	2.66	2.92	2.65	2.31	2.09	2.45
February	2.59	2.65	2.51	2.73	2.75	2.68	2.92	2.68	2.33	2.09	2.47
March	2.57	2.63	2.49	2.72	2.75	2.67	2.93	2.66	2.31	2.07	2.48
April	2.57	2.63	2.49	2.72	2.76	2.67	2.93	2.67	2.34	2.15	2.49
May	2.57	2.63	2.48	2.73	2.77	2.68	2.95	2.68	2.34	2.18	2.49
June	2.57	2.64	2.49	2.74	2.78	2.71	2.95	2.68	2.34	2.21	2.47
July	2.59	2.66	2.50	2.77	2.83	2.71	2.98	2.72	2.36	2.24	2.48
August	2.60	2.67	2.52	2.78	2.81	2.74	2.98	2.73	2.38	2.25	2.51
September	2.62	2.69	2.53	2.79	2.83	2.78	3.03	2.73	2.39	2.29	2.50
October	2.63	2.70	2.55	2.80	2.83	2.78	3.04	2.74	2.40	2.28	2.51
November	2.65	2.71	2.58	2.80	2.83	2.75	3.05	2.74	2.40	2.27	2.52
December	2.67	2.73	2.58	2.82	2.83	2.79	3.05	2.77	2.41	2.22	2.55
Percent change, December 1954 to 1955											
Avg. wkly. earnings	+4.2	+3.6	+1.7	+4.7	+2.7	+6.2	+8.0	+6.5	+5.6	+8.6	+3.5
Avg. wkly. hours	+1.1	+.6	-.3	+1.4	+.5	+2.1	+3.4	+2.3	+2.1	+4.2	+.3
Avg. hrly. earnings	+3.1	+3.0	+2.0	+3.3	+2.2	+4.1	+4.5	+4.1	+3.4	+4.2	+3.2

Source: Department of Labor.

Construction Legislation

Passamaquoddy International Tidal Power Project. (Public Law 401, approved January 31, 1956.)

This law authorizes the appropriation of not to exceed $3,000,000 for a final survey, to be conducted by the International Joint Commission on United States-Canadian boundary waters, to determine the economic feasibility of a tidal power project in Passamaquoddy Bay in Maine and New Brunswick. The survey would determine not only the cost of construction of the proposed project, but also whether or not such cost would allow hydroelectric power to be produced at a price that is economically feasible, and what contribution the project would make to the national economy and the national defense.

The possibility of using the rise and fall of the tides in Passamaquoddy Bay (where the average tide is 18 feet) for the generation of hydroelectric power has been under consideration ever since it was first suggested in 1919. The project has already been determined to be feasible from an engineering standpoint.

Amendments to the Disaster Loan Provisions of the Small Business Act of 1953. (Public Law 402, approved February 2, 1956.)

This law amends the Small Business Act of 1953 to increase from $25 million to $125 million the Small Business Administration's authority for making business disaster and housing disaster loans. The existing authorization of $150 million for other business loans is continued as a separate fund, in order to emphasize the different character of the disaster lending program and the regular business lending program.

P. L. 402 also:

(1) Increases the maximum term on disaster business loans from 10 years to 20 years. Under the former law, a 20-year maximum term was available for disaster housing loans, but the maximum maturity for disaster business loans was set at 10 years.

(2) Fixes a 3-percent maximum interest rate which will apply not only to disaster home loans as under previous law, but also to direct disaster loans to small businesses, and to the SBA's share of the disaster loans to small businesses made in participation with private lenders. Although the SBA had in practice applied the 3-percent rate to the Federal portion of all types of disaster loans, P.L. 402 now makes this rate the statutory maximum. The law does not stipulate the amount of interest that private lenders may charge on their share in participation loans.

FHA Title I Repair and Improvement Loans Authorized for New Homes Damaged by Major Disasters, Without Regard to 6-Month Occupancy Requirement. (Public Law 405, approved February 10, 1956.)

This law authorizes the Federal Housing Administration to insure repair and improvement loans on new homes, under title I of the National Housing Act, without regard to the statutory requirement that the house must have been occupied for at least 6 months, provided the house was damaged by a disaster which the President has determined to be a major disaster under Public Law 875, 81st Congress. P.L. 405 was enacted mainly for the relief of owners of newly completed homes which were damaged in the recent floods on the east and west coasts, who were ineligible under previous law for title I insured loans to finance the repair of their properties because they had not yet occupied their homes for 6 months.

In the report of the House Committee on Banking and Currency pertaining to this legislation (House of Representatives Report No. 1657, 84th Congress, 2d Session), the Federal Housing Administration and the Small Business Administration were specifically ordered to maintain the FHA title I home repair program and the SBA disaster loan program (see P.L. 402, above) independent of each other. To this end, the Committee directed that the rejection or disallowance of a FHA title I insured home loan should not be established as a condition for obtaining a disaster loan from the Small Business Administration.

Urgent Deficiency Appropriation Act, 1956. (Public Law 406, approved February 14, 1956.)

Major construction items contained in this law are as follows:

President's Disaster Relief Fund. An additional $25,000,000 for emergency relief to States and localities during major disasters.

Department of the Army. (1) $31,600,000 to replace previously appropriated funds used by the Corps of Engineers under authority contained in Public Law 875, 81st Congress, for emergency Federal assistance in the Northeastern States in rehabilitation and repair of public property and facilities damaged in the 1955 storms; (2) $1,586,000 for preconstruction planning on 17 authorized flood-control projects and $1,100,000 for starting construction on 5 flood-control reservoirs in the Connecticut River Basin.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Construction Review brings together under one cover virtually all of the Government's current statistics that pertain to construction. Published jointly by the U. S. Department of Commerce and the U. S. Department of Labor, this monthly report is designed to serve the wide variety of groups and individuals among businessmen, government officials, legislators, labor unions, research workers, and the general public who need a convenient reference to the many facets by which current trends in construction may be gaged.

The various measures of construction are shown in detail wherever possible, by type of construction, trade, or material, and in addition, by location. The Index to statistical tables is a guide to the detail provided by each tabulation.

Most of the statistical series shown are prepared separately or jointly by the two agencies responsible for this publication. The remainder, specifically accredited, originate in other governmental agencies or are contributed by private organizations. [1]

Almost all the statistics are presented on a monthly basis; the rest, quarterly. Except where noted, all data relate to the continental United States.

DEFINITION OF THE SERIES

Part I--Construction Put in Place. Construction, for the purpose of this series, is defined to include the engineering, design, and production of all fixed works and structures. Only new construction, including major additions and alterations, is covered; maintenance and repair work is excluded. The estimates cover buildings; other structures such as dams, levees, and bridges; and nonstructural works such as airfields, highways, canals, and navigation channels. They include the installed value of equipment generally considered an integral part of a structure and commonly included in the contract price, such as plumbing, heating, and air conditioning equipment and elevators. They exclude separable equipment, such as production machinery, power-generating equipment, and furnishings.

Clearing and development of land is included. If, however, an existing structure is demolished in the process, the demolition itself is excluded. Excluded also are oil, gas, and water well drilling; the digging and shoring of mines; and work which is an integral part of farming operations such as plowing, terracing, and the digging of drainage ditches.

Value of construction includes the cost of architectural and engineering fees, land development costs, material and equipment installed, labor, overhead, and profit on construction operations, but not speculative profits. Also included are the value of force-account work (construction done, not through a contractor, but directly by a business or government agency using a separate work force to perform nonmaintenance construction on the agency's own properties), as well as the value of work done by owners or their families on their own homes, farm buildings, and the like.

Estimates of the value of construction measure the value of work put in place on all structures and facilities under construction during a given period regardless of when work on each individual project was started.

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[1] The private contributors are as follows: American Appraisal Co. (525 E. Michigan St., Milwaukee 2, Wis.), Associated General Contractors of America, Inc. (329 E St., N. W., Washington 4, D. C.), E. H. Boeckh and Associates (1406 M St., N. W., Washington 5, D. C.), and the Engineering News-Record (330 W. 42nd St., New York 36, N. Y.), which provide this bulletin with construction cost indexes; the F. W. Dodge Corporation (119 W. 40th St., New York, N. Y.), which provides contract award values for the 37 eastern States; and the following private associations whose materials production, shipments, and other statistics on materials are published here: American Institute of Steel Construction (101 Park Ave., New York 17, N. Y.), American Iron and Steel Institute (350 Fifth Ave., New York 1, N. Y.), Douglas Fir Plywood Association (Tacoma Bldg., Tacoma 2, Wash.), National Electric Manufacturers Association (155 E. 44th St., New York 17, N.Y.), National Lumber Manufacturers Association (1319 18th St., N. W., Washington 6, D. C.), and National Wood Work Manufacturers Association (332 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago 4, Ill.).

Federally owned construction covers all projects financed exclusively with Federal funds, whether the work is done by force-account or by private contractors. State and locally owned construction, which also covers both force-account and private-contract work, includes projects financed entirely by State and local governments, as well as projects financed in part by the Federal Government under grants-in-aid programs. Thus, the value figures for State and locally owned construction include the funds obtained from all three levels of government--Federal, State, and local. For the most part, the types of projects involving both Federal and State or local government monies are highways, airfields, schools, hospitals, and sewage-disposal and water-supply facilities.

Part II--New Housing. The housing series in this report cover only permanent and housekeeping dwelling units, which are defined as dwelling places containing permanent cooking facilities, or the minimum built-in facilities essential to housekeeping.

The series on the number of new permanent nonfarm dwelling units started, widely known as housing starts, includes prefabricated housing (if permanent), but excludes conversions (which are not new dwelling units) and hotel, dormitory accommodations, and military barracks (none of which are housekeeping dwellings). Excluded also are all temporary dwelling units, such as trailers, sheds, and shacks, as well as all farm housing.

The housing starts estimates are based on local building permits issued (adjusted for canceled permits and for lag between permit issuance and start of construction) and public contracts awarded, plus a field count of units started in a sample of nonpermit-issuing places.

Construction is said to have started when excavation work for the basement or the foundation of the structure has commenced.

This series was revised beginning with data for January 1954. The new series presents statistics for the 4 broad Census regions (Northeast, North Central, South, and West) and for the metropolitan, as compared with the nonmetropolitan segment of the country. Estimates by metropolitan-nonmetropolitan location have been carried back on a monthly basis through January 1953, and on an annual basis through 1950.

These geographic data replace the urban-rural classification used previously. Also, rental-type units in the new series are classified as 2-4 family and 5-or-more family structures, compared with the former classification of 2-family and 3-or-more family structures.

Construction cost data shown here represent the average of builders' estimates of the construction cost of all new private 1-family houses started nationally. The construction cost averages are affected by variations in size and design of the houses, in the size and type of projects started, and differences in construction methods, as well as changes in cost of materials and labor. They do not represent the construction cost of a typical house, and should not be confused with selling price or permit valuation.

The cost data are based primarily on builders' estimates of construction cost as shown on the building permit, and on reports of construction cost by individual construction contractors in a representative group of localities not issuing permits. Building-permit information is adjusted for the general understatement of costs shown on permit applications.

The construction cost figures cover the cost of labor, materials, and subcontracted work, and that part of the builders' overhead and profit chargeable directly to the building of the houses. Included are the costs of equipment which becomes an integral part of the structure and is essential to its general use. Excluded are the costs of land, site improvement, architectural and engineering fees, and sales profits.

While the series on total nonfarm dwelling units started, as well as the series on units started under FHA and VA programs, cover new housing only, as distinguished from converted or existing housing, the statistics on nonfarm mortgage recordings of $20,000 or less refer to both new and existing structures. Furthermore, the latter series covers all types of building construction, but resi-

dential building accounts for the larger proportion of these mortgage recordings.

Part III--Building Permits. The statistics on building construction authorized by local building permits, beginning with data for January 1954, measure building activity in all localities having building-permit systems--rural nonfarm as well as urban. Such localities (over 7,000) include about 80 percent of the total nonfarm population of the country, according to the 1950 Census.

The building-construction data cover federally as well as nonfederally owned projects. Figures on the amount of construction contracts awarded for Federal projects and for public housing (Federal, State, and local) in permit-issuing places are added to the valuation data (estimated cost entered by builders on building-permit applications) for privately owned projects; construction undertaken by State and local governments is reported by local officials.

No adjustment has been made in the building-permit data to reflect the fact that permit valuations generally understate the actual cost of construction, nor for lapsed permits or the lag between permit issuance or contract-award dates and start of construction. Therefore, they should not be considered as representing the volume of building construction started.

Statistics shown in this report for the total metropolitan area of the country represent the 168 Standard Metropolitan Areas used in the 1950 Census. Data for individual metropolitan areas (which were selected from those for which building-permit coverage is complete or virtually complete) include an estimate for non-permit-issuing places in each area.

Permit valuation figures do not include the costs of (1) demolishing or moving buildings, (2) nonbuilding construction (e.g., streets and highways, pipelines, water and sewer systems, etc.), or (3) land, land development, and architectural and engineering fees.

The builders' estimates of cost as reported on the building permit, basically include the value of labor and materials involved. However, because of differences in requirements, administration, and enforcement among the many local permit systems covered in this series, and variations in how individuals report, precise information is lacking regarding the extent to which the cost of service facilities essential to the general use of the building, or builders' overhead and profit, are included.

Dwelling units are defined the same for the building-permit series as for the series presented in Part II (New Housing) of this report. The nonhousekeeping residential building shown here is comprised of such structures as hotels, dormitories, tourist cabins, and clubs and association buildings with bedrooms.

Part IV--Contract Awards. The value of contracts awarded represents the amount of the construction contracts let during a given period of time for new construction, including major additions and alterations. Maintenance and repair work is not covered. As in the "construction put in place" series, equipment which becomes an integral part of structures and is essential to their general use is included, as well as costs of land development, materials, labor, and contractors' overhead and profit on construction operations. Similarly, the value of Federal force-account work is also included, but the cost of land and separable equipment are excluded. However, unlike the construction put in place series, the statistics on contracts awarded exclude architectural and engineering fees and non-Federal force-account work, but include a small amount of demolition work when it is part of the overall contract for new construction.

Figures on federally owned projects are compiled from notifications of construction contracts awarded, obtained from other Federal agencies. Data on non-Federal construction are obtained from records compiled by the F. W. Dodge Corporation, for the 37 States east of the Rocky Mountains. For the remaining States, they are based on reports from local building-permit officials, augmented by reports on construction contract awards which appear in a number of construction trade periodicals. Inquiries about the Dodge contract-award series may be addressed directly to that company.

Part V--Costs. The Department of Commerce composite construction cost index is a combination of various cost indexes (prepared by private organizations and other government agencies), weighted monthly by the current relative importance of the major classes of construction shown in the series on construction put in place. It is, therefore, the equivalent of a variable weighted indicator, reflecting monthly changes not only in the component indexes, but also in the relative importance of the major classes of construction which are used as weights.

The individual private indexes reported monthly by the American Appraisal Company, Associated General Contractors, E. H. Boeckh and Associates, and the Engineering News-Record are computed from quotations for a designated bill of materials and a specified amount of labor. The indexes differ as to the amounts and kinds of materials and labor measured, geographic coverage, and the extent to which adjustments are made for variations in labor efficiency, overhead and other factors affecting construction costs.

Cost indexes applicable to particular locations and special types of construction may be obtained from most of these compilers.

All materials usually incorporated into buildings by the general contractor, or his subcontractors, are covered in the index of wholesale prices of building materials. Specifically excluded are consumer durable goods such as kitchen ranges, refrigerators, and air-conditioning equipment. Goods of constant quality are priced from period to period, so that the index measures the effect only of price, rather than of quality change. "Wholesale" refers to sales in large lots, at primary market levels.

The series was revised, beginning with the January 1952 index, to include the pricing of additional materials, a different weighting pattern, and a change in the pricing period. The revised index, based on 1947-49=100, is the "official" wholesale price index of the Federal Government for January 1952 and all subsequent months; the indexes previously published on the base 1926=100 are the official price indexes for December 1951 and all earlier dates. The index presented here for the year 1951 on a 1947-49=100 base is taken from a "linked" series, calculated solely for analytical purposes, and does not supersede the former index (1926=100) as the official series for that year.

Union wage scales are the minimum wage rates agreed upon through collective bargaining between employers and trade unions. Overtime beyond the negotiated maximum daily and weekly hours is excluded. In addition, the scales do not reflect either rates for apprentices or premium rates paid for special qualifications or other reasons.

Part VI--Materials. The Indexes of Construction Materials Output provide measures of production or shipments for ten groups of construction materials, and are based on the output of 43 selected materials. Monthly indexes are provided for eight groups of materials, quarterly indexes for the other two groups, and annual levels are given for all groups.

In computing the indexes, the current monthly or quarterly unit production or shipments data are converted to aggregate values by multiplying 1947-49 average prices at the mills, factories, or plants. The base period aggregate values (1947-49 monthly average = 100) are derived by multiplying 1947-49 monthly average output by the 1947 average factory, mill, or plant price. By the use of varying physical quantities, and constant prices, the group indexes represent physical quantity measures. The trend lines appearing on the charts are derived from the group indexes by removing the month-to-month fluctuations resulting from seasonal and erratic factors. The lines are 12-month moving averages centered on the seventh month, with each calendar year centered on July. Projections for the last 6 months are made by using the current data adjusted for the seasonal movements appearing during the period 1952-54, and smoothed by a 3-month moving average.

Part VII--Employment. Data on employment in contract construction cover all employees of construction firms who worked during, or received pay for, the payroll period ending nearest the 15th of the month, regardless of the type of

work performed. Only firms engaged in the construction business on a contract basis for others are included, but such firms pursue all kinds of construction activities--new work, alterations, demolitions, maintenance, and repairs. Excluded are self-employed construction workers, working proprietors, and force-account employees of non-construction firms and public agencies engaged in construction activities.

The hours and earnings estimates relate only to nonsupervisory construction workers and working foremen. All such workers, regardless of skill, are included if they are engaged in any way in contract construction activities (on either privately or publicly owned projects).

The earnings statistics shown are gross earnings before deductions for old-age and unemployment insurance, withholding tax, bonds, and union dues. Gross earnings include the workers' base pay, premium pay for overtime and for bonuses, and pay for sick leave, holidays, and vacations taken, but such items as employer contributions to welfare funds, and to insurance or pension plans, are excluded.

The indexes of weekly man-hours in contract construction are a composite measure of the trends in construction-worker employment and average weekly hours. They provide a more meaningful measure of contract-construction activity than the employment or average weekly hours series alone, since the volume of work done is dependent upon both the number of workers employed and the length of their workweek.

The foregoing employment and earnings series are based upon reports from individual contracting establishments; these reports do not contain the detail necessary to separate employment according to the kind of construction work performed, as reported in the tables on labor requirements for new construction. To yield this information, the figures on the value of new construction (see the tables on new construction put in place) are converted into estimated man-months of work, using a factor representing the value of work put in place per man-hour. This factor relates to different time periods and is based on diverse sources, according to the type of work. For most types of work, no adjustment is made for productivity. Therefore, although the series provides a suitable general measure of labor requirements, it cannot be used to gage changes in productivity.

The labor requirement figures derived by this method are not employment figures in the same sense as those developed from employment reports. They are, instead, an approximate measurement, in terms of number of full-time workers, of the labor required to put in place the dollar volume of new construction reported for the specified period.

Since the basic data (dollar volume) cover the entire value of the work put in place, all the labor charged to the construction is included--wage and salaried employees, in addition to the working proprietors, self-employed, and employees of operative builders. Furthermore, force-account work, which is excluded from data on employment by construction contractors, is included in the labor requirement series. Also, contractors' employees may work on all kinds of construction work--demolitions, or repair and maintenance projects, as well as new construction--but the figures on labor requirements have been developed for new projects only.

Information shown in this report on apprentices in the building trades applies only to registered apprentices. A registered apprentice is defined as an employee who, under an expressed or implied agreement for a stipulated term, receives instruction in a registered apprenticeship system, and concerning whom a recognized apprenticeship agency has on record all the information it requires.

The apprenticeship data are obtained from local apprenticeship committees, trade unions, employers' associations, and building trades councils, by field representatives of the Federal Government and cooperating State Apprenticeship Agencies. Occupational classifications are based on descriptions in the Dictionary of Occupational Titles (Washington, U. S. Employment Service, 2d Ed., 1949). For the purposes of the tabulation presented here, three classifica-

tions--brick, stone, and tile workers; cement masons; and plasterers--have been combined into one group, the trowel trades.

SELECTED REFERENCES

Descriptions of the techniques of compiling most of the series included, as well as related explanatory information and historical statistics are contained in the following selected group of Government publications. Starred (*) items may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C., at the prices shown. The remainder listed below are available upon request to the agency responsible for the publications, unless otherwise indicated.

*Business Statistics: A Supplement to the Survey of Current Business. 1955 Biennial Edition. U. S. Department of Commerce, Office of Business Economics. $2.

Construction Volume and Costs, 1915-54. May be obtained from Bureau of Labor Statistics Regional Offices or Department of Commerce Field Offices (see inside front cover of Construction Review for addresses), or from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C. Price, 50 cents.

Construction Cost Indexes, BLS Report No. 73, November 1954. U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Washington 25, D. C.

*Construction During Five Decades, Historical Statistics, 1915-52. BLS Bulletin No. 1146. U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. 45 cents.

*Employment and Earnings. Monthly. U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Subscription price: $3.50 domestic; $4.50 foreign. Single copies vary in price.

*Employment and Earnings. Annual Supplement Issue. May 1955. U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Washington 25, D. C.

*Eighth Annual Report-Housing and Home Finance Agency. Calendar Year 1954. Housing and Home Finance Agency. $1.50.

Housing Statistics. Special Year-end Issue with Annual Statistics. January 1955. Housing and Home Finance Agency, Division of Housing Research, Washington 25, D. C.

New Construction Expenditures, 1915-51: Labor Requirements 1939-51. U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Division of Construction Statistics, Washington 25, D. C.

*Techniques of Preparing Major BLS Statistical Series, BLS Bulletin 1168, U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. 60 cents.

Chapter II--Estimating National Housing Volume
Chapter III--Estimating Expenditures for New Construction
Chapter IV--Labor Required for New Construction
Chapter VI--Measurement of Industrial Employment
Chapter VII--Hours and Earnings in Nonagricultural Industries
Chapter X--Wholesale Price Index
Chapter XII--Studies of Occupational Wages and Supplementary Benefits

*Union Wages and Hours: Building Trades, July 1, 1954. BLS Bulletin 1175. U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. 30 cents.

"Revised Wholesale Price Index of Building Materials," Construction, March 1954, pp. 3-8. U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Division of Construction Statistics, Washington 25, D. C.

"A Description of the Revised Wholesale Price Index." Serial No. R.2067. Monthly Labor Review, Feb. 1952. U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Washington 25, D. C.

*Wholesale Prices, 1951 and 1952. BLS Bulletin 1143. U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. 30 cents.

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